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SAUDI MINISTER MEETS PRESS AFTER OPEC CONFERENCE

JN171800Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 78 JN

[Report on press conference by Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, following the OPEC Ministerial Council meetings, in Abu Dhabi on 17 December]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 December--Saudi Petroleum and Mineral Affairs Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani has stated that the results of the OPEC Ministerial Council meetings arose from the efforts and experience of UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan and the messages he delivered to heads of OPEC members. The messages were carried by UAE Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah.

At a press conference he held here this evening, Shaykh Yamani added that the method with which Al-'Utaybah conducted the dialog and tried to narrow viewpoints made us reach this result despite divergence of opinion. Thus, we have protected our interests and those of the entire world. Shaykh Yamani explained that Saudi Arabia and the UAE always work together in these fields. Commenting on the OPEC resolutions, Shaykh Yamani said that as regards the oil price increase, we have reached a compromise solution. This solution represents the best of what could be obtained under current circumstances and in light of the divergence of opinions.

Shaykh Yamani said he expects the value of the dollar to drop during the next year owing to U.S. domestic policy. Among the causes is the deficit in the balance of payments, which will be rectified in a regular fashion beginning in 1980. Shaykh Yamani explained that the world can accommodate the oil price increase that was adopted.

Asked about the oil price increase, his excellency said: I am not pleased with this increase because Saudi Arabia has always demanded a smaller percentage. We have always demanded 5 percent on installments. This is because we always take into consideration the Third World economy and the consumers' interests. He added that Saudi Arabia has a special position regarding this matter. This matter deals with our rejection of finding a basket of currencies as a substitute for the dollar. The various world currencies are currently subject to a tense situation. Therefore, if we choose a substitute for the dollar, this would exacerbate its deterioration. This will affect Saudi Arabia because it is using the dollar in its surplus investment.

The Saudi minister said: These matters always prompted us to hope for a smaller percentage. Our opinion in this has nothing to do with politics, he added. Shaykh Yamani said that the approved percentage increase does not offset all the losses we have incurred as a result of inflation and the dollar's deterioration. However, this increase represents a fair compensation for some losses, though not for all. This is because we take the world economy and oil markets into consideration. About the situation in Iran, Shaykh Yamani said that this situation cannot continue as it is. Iran is not in a position to stop its exports for a long time. An immediate remedy must be achieved; otherwise the consumer will pay prices higher than what OPEC has decided, Yamani concluded.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAILS RESOLUTIONS OF 33D UN SESSION

JN151532Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1400 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, presided over a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee last night.

During its meeting, the committee discussed the results of the 33d UN session. It highly valued the resolutions issued during this session, which stressed the constant, inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, and the UN recognition of the PLO as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These resolutions also emphasized that any agreement that disregards the Palestinian people's rights will be void and illegal. The Executive Committee decided to send messages of thanks and appreciation to the UN member states and to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim. The committee also highly valued the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people and thanked all the countries, forces and solidarity committees that participated in the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The Executive Committee has also discussed the topics to be dealt with by the delegation traveling to Jordan under brother Khalid Abu Sittah, in light of the discussions held between the revolution factions on the results of the previous delegation's visit to Jordan under brother Khalid al-Fahum. At the end of the meeting, the committee gave its directions to the delegation departing to Amman. The Palestinian delegation is due to leave for Jordan tomorrow under brother Khalid Abu Sittah in order to complete discussions with officials in Amman on the affairs of the occupied homeland.

PLO'S MUHSIN CRITICIZES LEBANESE PRESIDENT SARKIS

NC1609015Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 16 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 16 December--The director of the PLO Military Department, Zuhayr Muhsin, has said that Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis and others are mistaken when they view Palestinian weapons on an equal basis with the weapons of fascist Phalangist terrorist militias, which cooperate with the enemy and are determined to usurp power in Lebanon. He added that this means there is a lack of clear understanding on the Bayt Ad-Din resolutions. It also means that the Lebanese president does not want to embark on the correct path for dealing with the crisis and ending it, he said.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM published today, Zuhayr Muhsin said that perhaps the Palestinian resistance got involved in the Lebanese crisis at one time, but at most other times it had no choice because its future was at stake.

Zuhayr Muhsin denounced what has been said about the resettlement of Palestinians in Lebanon, stressing that this is not a serious proposal and no one has discussed it with them. He described Palestinian-Jordanian and Palestinian-Syrian relations after the Baghdad summit as "witnessing a strategic change in favor of the Palestinian issue."

Discusses Palestinian Unity

JN1819547 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1922 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 December--Zuhayr Muhsin, chief of the PLO Military Department, has asserted that Palestinian national unity is the strong weapon with which the revolution can face the capitualtionist plots.

In a statement published in the newspaper AL-LIWA' today, Muhsin said that Iraqi-Syrian cohesion has given the Palestinian revolution the potential to adopt struggle stands. Muhsin added that the effect of the Joint National Action Charter between Iraq and Syria on the Palestinian arena constitutes strong political ground for the Palestinian revolution and material capabilities to pool everyone within the PLO and to meet the needs of all the organizations and institutions.

This, Muhsin added, will diminish the size of foreign influence on the stands and conduct of the various factions and will contribute to confining all matters within the Palestinian circle.

Speaking about the dialog with Jordan, Muhsin said that establishment of good relations with Jordan and our strong presence there for intensifying our contacts with our kinfolk in the occupied territories would mean winning half the battle as far as wrecking the so-called self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is concerned.

PALESTINIANS CLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPERATIONS IN ISRAEL

JN171631Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 17 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Our Palestinian fighters from groups operating inside the occupied territories, Ad-Dakhil groups, this morning and last night carried out three heroic operations against the enemy's vital installations and personnel inside the city of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and the settlement of [name indistinct]. The operations resulted in material and human losses among the enemy ranks. This was stated this morning by the official spokesman of the general command of the forces of the revolution in three military communiques.

The spokesman said that this morning one of our groups was able to infiltrate all the barricades and checkpoints installed by the Zionist enemy inside the city of Jerusalem. The group placed powerful time bombs inside the Jewish quarter in Jerusalem, which was built on the remains of our houses after the operation of destruction that began in 1967. The explosion resulted in killing and wounding a great number of the enemy. They were transferred to Hadassah Hospital. A number of cars near the explosion site were damaged. The occupation authorities surrounded the area and began combing it in search of other charges that might have remained unexploded. The enemy forces arrested a number of citizens present in the area on the pretext that they were connected with the operation.

The enemy radio admitted the operation and said that 20 persons were wounded, 3 of them seriously. The radio added that the police force asked the citizens and students not to touch any strange object that might be a booby trap.

Another group of fighters placed powerful time bombs this morning inside the station of the (?southern) buses on the [word indistinct] road near the Ramat Gan settlement. At 0620 the charge was discovered while the area was crowded with enemy soldiers. At the same time the security forces closed the bus station and prevented the soldiers and buses from entering it.

The explosives expert who was called to defuse the charge was not able to do so. He had to explode it, heavily damaging one of the buses.

At midnight of [words indistinct] one of our groups was able to place its bombs inside the labor (?office) in Tel Aviv. The charge exploded at 0340 and the explosion was heard all over the area. A large force of enemy police and army rushed in and began to comb the area. The explosion resulted in heavily damaging the building and breaking the glass of most of the nearby buildings, in addition to damaging a number of cars in front of the building. There were strict security measures in Tel Aviv after the operation. Barricades and checkposts were set up to look for our revolutionaries, who returned safely to base.

BAHRAIN

AMIR RECEIVES MESSAGE ON MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS FROM AS-SADAT

JN181204Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 18 December--His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received a message from Egyptian President Anwar As-Sadat.

It has been learned that the message deals with recent developments in the Middle East and the situation regarding the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. The message also outlines Egypt's viewpoints regarding these negotiations. The Bahraini ambassador in Cairo conveyed the message to his highness the amir.

KUWAIT

ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S.-PRC DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS NOTED

LD161340Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The United States and China are to restore diplomatic relations following a generation of hostilities. A joint statement made public in Peking and Washington has stated that normal relations between the two countries are to be resumed at the beginning of next month and that First Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping is to be the first Chinese communist leader to pay an official visit to the United States later this month. Relations between the two countries were broken off 29 years ago when the communists, under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung, toppled the regime of Gen Chiang Kai-shek. The process of (?rapproachement) began with a table tennis tournament 7 years ago, which was followed by a visit by former U.S. President Nixon to Peking in 1972. Since that date contacts and trade between the two countries have continued to develop. Hua Kuo-feng, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, has stated that his country has agreed to establish full diplomatic relations with the United States despite its disagreement with Washington about the continuing sale of American weapons to Taiwan. He explained, however, that the future of Taiwan is considered an internal affair to be solved by the Chinese themselves. No immediate reaction about the American-Chinese agreement is yet available from the Soviet Union.

OMAN

MINISTER ZAWAWI ON OMAN-PDRY MEDIATION, CAMP DAVID ACCORDS

LD181004Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 18 December--Kuwait's AL-NABA' today quotes Qais Zawawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, as saying that Oman supports the Egyptian-Israeli Camp David agreements.

In an interview published this morning, Zawawi says he believes that under these agreements Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat secured concessions from Israel which could not have been secured by war. Zawawi, however, did not specify what these concessions were.

On the question of mediation between Oman and the PDRY, Zawawi said that Oman has asked no one to mediate though its accepts Kuwait's mediation in the matter.

He added that the question of mediation has not been raised during his current talks with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, who is now visiting Muscat. But he said that "should the Kuwaiti side raise the question, he will welcome it and work for its success."

He reiterated that Oman has not asked for mediation by anyone, "but Saudi Arabia is playing a role of coordination and nothing more".

SAUDI ARABIA

SAUDI ARABIA REPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS

LD161244Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Text] President Carter announced yesterday that the United States will establish full diplomatic relations with communist China at the beginning of the new year and will end its official relations with Taiwan. The U.S. President described this step as being a historic [word indistinct] step which crowns the process started by former U.S. President Richard Nixon and the late Chinese Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Meanwhile, reports arriving from Hong Kong state that Peking has agreed to establish diplomatic relations with the United States at the beginning of the new year. These reports state that the Chinese leader, Hua Kuo-feng, held a press conference in Peking where he read the joint statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States and the Chinese Government's statement on this matter.

The exchange of ambassadors is due to take place in March. In Taiwan, the government summoned an emergency session at dawn today, which included main leaders of nationalist China. Sources close to the Taiwan Government have stated that government officials were awakened during the night to be told about the meetings to be held at dawn today under the chairmanship of Chiang Ching-kuo, premier of nationalist China.

CABINET DISCUSSES OPEC OIL PRICE INCREASE

LD182130Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] The cabinet met at 1800 under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister. The meeting lasted until 2100.

Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, minister of information, said that the cabinet began by reviewing the decisions adopted by OPEC yesterday and in this connection heard a report by Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, minister of petroleum and mineral affairs. His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, emphasized that the kingdom is very anxious to insure that its decisions are logical and objective and based on sound economic foundations, taking into consideration the importance of the world economic situation and the problems of the developing countries. His highness said: The kingdom has always regarded oil as a means for the well-being of our country and our nation and the well-being of the entire world, and we never contemplate adopting emotional or sudden decisions.

His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, emphasized to the cabinet the kingdom's concern that the world economy should not be harmed.

This has been clearly shown in the past, he said, and this will be the basis of our actions in future. It is impossible to keep the level of prices as it has been following the decline in the value of the dollar and the rise in inflation, something that caused heavy losses for the oil-exporting countries.

His highness explained that agreement was reached on a price increase of 10 percent as from the beginning of next January. But for fear that this increase might adversely affect the world economy if applied all at once, it has been decided that the increase in revenues of the oil-exporting countries be 10 percent and that a gradual price increase be applied from the beginning of January until the beginning of the last quarter of the coming year, thus achieving a total of 10 percent in revenue.

His royal highness the crown prince said that the financial burden on the oil-consuming countries as a result of purchasing oil would be no more than 10 percent, bearing in mind that many of these countries benefited from the fall in the value of the dollar; and if the price of oil in their own currencies 2 years ago were to be compared with the prices of next year, during which the increases will take place, it will become apparent in certain cases that the new price is still less than the prices paid at the beginning of 1977.

SAUDI ARABIA SUPPLIES IRAN WITH KEROSENE, AIRCRAFT FUEL

LD191025Y London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 78 p 1 LD

[Text] London--Well-informed petroleum sources have told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom has supplied Iran with kerosene and aircraft fuel in order to meet the shortage of these two commodities suffered by Iran as a result of the oil refineries stoppage because of the internal situation.

The sources said that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom imports part of its requirements of kerosene and aircraft fuel, because its refineries do not produce enough for local consumption. Therefore, the Saudi authorities have agreed to divert two giant tankers carrying kerosene and aircraft fuel, which were heading for Saudi ports, to an Iranian port in order to unload there.

The sources estimate that the quantity which Saudi Arabia supplied to Iran will be sufficient to meet Iran's shortage of these two commodities during the current winter season.

It is recalled that reports last week said that the gulf states refused to meet an Iranian request to supply the Iranian market with kerosene and aircraft fuel.

YEMEN--PDRY

PDRY WILL 'SUFFER CONSIDERABLY' FROM OPEC OIL PRICE RISE

LD181536Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the oil and minerals corporation, said that if the OPEC decision to increase the price of oil next year has any justification as far as the producing countries are concerned because of inflation, we, as a less developed state, will suffer considerably from the effects of this decision, since we do not produce any oil.

This was said in a statement made by brother 'Abd al-Gha[illegible] 'Abd al-Qadir to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY this morning. 'Abd al-Qadir appealed to the countries concerned with this subject to consider the special position of the less developed countries seeking to develop their peoples' lives, so as not to increase these countries' difficulties in achieving their goals.

YEMEN--YAR

FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES 'NO MEDIATION EFFORTS' WITH PDRY

JN181334Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah Al-Asnaj has denied recent press reports that all information campaigns directed at the ruling regime in Aden had been stopped. Foreign Minister al-Asnaj reiterated that there are no mediation efforts between the two parts of Yemen. Therefore, there is no need for speculation of any kind. The foreign minister emphasized that on the instructions of President Salih, officials of the YAR information authorities will concentrate on the issue of development and on national and pan-Arab commitments so that the Yemeni citizens in Aden and San'a' can judge the daily achievements in the YAR. Foreign Minister al-Asnaj stressed that the ruling clique in Aden will be left alone in fighting its mirage-like battle, which is aimed at achieving an internationalist regime at the cost of the innocent masses' blood.

Replying to a question about future plans of President Salih, Foreign Minister al-Asnaj said that President Salih has no plans in the near future to visit any Arab country. However, there are YAR-Arab and YAR-international contacts within the framework of bilateral relations with those countries.

BRIEFS

SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO YAR--Tirad 'Abdallah al-Harithi today presented his credentials to YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the YAR. The presentation ceremony was held in the presidential palace, and the president and the ambassador exchanged friendly speeches. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Dec 78 JN]

ADN OFFICIAL VISITS PDRY--Brother 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Badhib, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Central Committee, member of the Presidential Council and minister of culture and tourism, and Comrade (Olivier), ADN editorial secretary, have had talks on the development of international cooperation and an exchange of experiences between the mass media in the PDRY and the GDR, and ways to strengthen cooperation in the information field between the ADEN NEWS AGENCY and ADN. The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd al-Wasi' Qasim, the director general of ADEN NEWS AGENCY, and the ambassador of the GDR in Aden. The ADN editorial secretary is in Democratic Yemen at the invitation of the ADEN NEWS AGENCY. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Dec 78 LD/EA]

YAR-FRG COOPERATION--An agreement was signed in San'a' today between the FRG and the YAR Government, stipulating that the FRG will offer the YAR about DM17 million as a grant to implement a number of agricultural and other projects. The agreement also stipulates that the FRG will give a DM20 million loan to implement a number of projects. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Dec 78 JN]

APPOINTMENT OF YAR ADVISER--Decree No 33 of 1978 has been issued in the YAR appointing Lt Col 'Abdallah Husayn Barrakat adviser to the commander in chief of the armed forces. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN]

MUBARAK DENIES EGYPT SUBMITTING NEW DEMANDS

NC181303Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1128 GMT 18 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 December--Vice President Husni Mubarak has said it is not true that Egypt is submitting new demands, nor is it putting obstacles in the way of peace. He also said that we cannot be deterred by these obstacles which the Israeli Government is putting in the way of peace because we are fully confident that peace is capable of imposing itself despite all circumstances.

Vice President Mubarak said that since he embarked on his historic initiative, President as-Sadat has been working with determination and resolve to achieve a comprehensive settlement. For a settlement to be comprehensive, he said, it must basically embrace a solution of the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the problem. The vice president was addressing the fifth annual conference of the Scientific Research Academy, which he opened this morning on behalf of President Anwar as-Sadat.

Vice President Mubarak said that the challenges of peace are no less ferocious than the challenges of war. He called for a new outlook on all the systems used in production, administration and services with a view to insuring a happier life for every citizen.

Mubarak also spoke of the need to steer scientific research toward serving the environment at a time when demands for changing the face of life are increasing throughout Egypt.

The following is the text of the vice president's speech:

If science has always been a national duty, we need to adhere to and develop it more while we are passing through this delicate stage in our history--the state of preparing for peace with all its challenges and requirements. We all know that the challenges of peace are no less ferocious than the challenges of war.

If in time of war we concentrated our efforts on some areas directly connected with war production, we must expand the field of our interest in time of peace to include all areas so as to repair what has been damaged by wars, reconstruct the human environment, and bring a new outlook to bear on all the systems used in production, administration and services to insure a happier life for every citizen.

Brothers and sisters, we are determined to achieve a comprehensive peace which will cover all the peoples of the area. We cannot be deterred by these obstacles which the Israeli Government is putting in the way of peace because we are wholy confident that peace is capable of imposing itself despite all circumstances. Peace is an all-encompassing public demand which no one can stand in the way of. It is a noble aim which rises above bargaining and manuevers. It is a noble commitment and not a deal in which haggling and bargaining can take place.

Since the president embarked on his historic initiative as a contribution by the Egyptian people for a better life for mankind everywhere, he has been working determinedly and with resolve to achieve a comprehensive settlement. For a settlement to be comprehensive it must basically embrace a solution of the Palestinian issue, which is the crux of the dispute.

Egypt has therefore devoted a greater part of its attention to searching for an appropriate formula that will light up the road for the Palestinian people and put them on the right track, one such as will lead to the achievement of all their legitimate rights and to their return to their homeland, where they will enjoy their entity and identity and resume their march toward civilization free from war, violence and suffering.

It is not true what others allege--that Egypt is making new demands or raising obstacles in the way of peace. The record is unshakeable and there is no doubt about it. There is no disagreement that we have ever contented ourselves with the restoration of Egyptian soil; in every round of talks we have stuck to the need to achieve progress on the Palestinian issue to enable the fraternal Palestinian people to participate in the peace process and govern themselves and get rid of the evils of foreign occupation and rule.

This Israeli hesitation will not keep us from continuing the march, because peace to us is a basic strategic aim and not a transient means that accepts vacillation or temerity. Israel must make a decision because it knows very well that our commitment to the establishment of peace is equal only to our insistence that the settlement must be comprehensive and just, giving each side its right without injustice and without violation of the rights of others. The time will come when Israel will realize that there is no value in these distortions and procrastinations, and that Egypt will not sign a separate peace or a partial settlement. Because, if Egypt says something, it does it; if it promises something, it will fulfill its promise; and if it makes a pledge it will honor it, even if the rancorous are unhappy about it.

CAIRO REPORTS GRANTING OF ASYLUM TO IRAQI DIPLOMAT

NC182030Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A Foreign Ministry official spokesman has announced that Iraqi national Sa'dun Hasan Za'run, who is the diplomatic attache at the branch looking after Iraqi interests in Cairo, requested the Egyptian authorities on Friday, 15 December 1979, to grant him and his family the status of political refugees in the Arab Republic of Egypt. Za'run made this request out of his belief in the Arab policy line that His Excellency President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat is pursuing.

The Egyptian authorities have discussed this request in light of the fact that Egypt is considered the motherland of every Arab who complies with its policy and in accordance with the tradition that Egypt has adopted toward all Arab compatriots. Therefore, the Egyptian Government has decided to grant Sa'dun Hasan Za'run and his family the right to political asylum, including the right of residence in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

MILITARY DELEGATION RECALLED FROM WASHINGTON

NC190646Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 December--AL-JUMHURIYAH says today that Egypt has recalled the members of the military delegation in Washington, now that their mission there has ended.

The paper adds that the delegation consists of three members headed by Maj Gen Taha al-Majdhub. The military experts returned to Egypt recently.

DEFENSE MINISTER 'ALI, SOMALI COUNTERPART SPEAK

NC182125Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 December--Minister of Defense and War Production Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali has affirmed that despite the obstacles which have obstructed the achievement of peace up to now because of Israel's intransigent position, the peace current is stronger than the obstacles facing it and the will of the people will win out through righteousness, justice and freedom.

In an address at a dinner he gave tonight in honor of Lt Gen Mohamed Ali Samantar, the Somali first vice president and defense minister, and the accompanying delegation, Lieutenant General 'Ali said that Egypt is today waging a ferocious political battle aimed at liberating the Arab territories and establishing the bases for a comprehensive and just peace that will restore security to the Middle East and open the doors of progress and prosperity to its peoples.

Lieutenant General 'Ali said that Egypt fought honorably in October 1973 when fighting was the only way to regain the territories. He said that Egypt is today honorably waging a political battle in order to achieve the same goal.

Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali emphasized that Egypt will continue to support Somalia out of its belief that Somalia's freedom and territorial integrity are a support for the Arab cause and the issues of freedom in Africa and anywhere else in the world.

Lieutenant General 'Ali praised Somalia's role in the Arab sphere in view of the fact that it is an Arab-African state. He said that despite the delicate circumstances through which Somalia is passing, it has eagerly carried out its role within the framework of the Arab nation's national objectives. It has also played a tangible role in the OAU and in exposing the imperialist aims and plots in the African continent.

Lieutenant General 'Ali described Egyptian-Somali relations as ancient and genuine. He said that Egyptian people harbor amity and pride for the Somali people and appreciate their struggle. He said that on this basis, Egypt has not hesitated to support the Somali people during their various phases of struggle to achieve independence and resist the imperialist ambitions. He said that Egypt has backed Somalia since the October 1969 revolution and supported it as much as it could while it was fighting for the liberation and unification of its territory.

Concluding his address, Lt Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed hope that the Somali military delegation's visit to Egypt will lead to the strengthening of the military relations between Egypt and Somali and increase the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

In reply Lieutenant General Samantar delivered an address in which he praised President Anwar as-Sadat's wise leadership. He said that the steps that President as-Sadat has taken aim at achieving peace and fulfilling the hopes of the Arab peoples in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

Samantar expressed his gratitude to Egypt for the aid and unlimited support it is giving to Somalia. He also thanked the Egyptian leadership, government and people for the aid which Somalia will not forget.

The dinner, which was held at the officers club in Az-Zamalik, was attended by the Minister of State for War Production Maj Gen Kamal Nassar, Air Force Commander Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im and other senior armed forces commanders.

The dinner was also attended by the Somali ambassador in Cairo, Abdulrahim Abby Farah, and the Egyptian ambassador to Somalia, 'Abd al-'Aziz Khayrat.

CAIRO PRESS COMMENTS ON ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE

NC190807Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR says today: At a time when news agencies are reporting with admiration the Egyptian people's adherence to the principle of peace and their confidence that peace will triumph in the end despite the Israeli leaders' intransigence and obstinacy, they also note that the Israeli leaders are in a state of nervous emotion and tension.

The paper says that the AP correspondent in Cairo writes that the ordinary Egyptian citizen believes in the inevitability of peace and points an accusing finger at the Israeli leaders who say "no" to it.

The paper further refers to the Radio Monte Carlo report that the Egyptian side remains collected and very optimistic, and that the Israeli side is very emotional and its reactions contradictory.

The paper believes that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan displays this state of tension and nervousness as he puts the blame on Egypt and the United States, announces his rejection of all proposals and solutions, and reaffirms his adherence to the settlements in the West Bank, even if the Americans want something else.

AL-AKHBAR emphasizes that Dayan does not provide a solution to the Israeli people, who desire peace, but that he is engaged in a clash with the whole world because he believes that the whole world is wrong and Israel is right. The paper adds: This does not reflect any sense of responsibility, not even toward his own citizens. Peace, as Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said yesterday, is a noble aim which rises above bargains and maneuvers. The time will come when Israel will realize that these prevarications and procrastinations are futile.

In conclusion, AL-AKHBAR says: As Mubarak has emphasized, Egypt will not be shaken by the obstacles the Israeli Government is laying in the path to peace, because we are very confident that peace is capable of imposing itself despite all circumstances because it is a sweeping popular demand that nobody can stop. The interests of the peoples are above those individuals who lack calm nerves.

In today's editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH confirms that U.S. President Jimmy Carter was right when he stressed up to the last moment the importance of signing the peace treaty on the date set by the Camp David agreements, namely 17 December.

The paper says that it was Carter's view that this date was the first commitment fixed by these agreements, that meeting this deadline would prove the extent of the seriousness of the parties to the treaty and that abusing it would be a serious precedent casting doubt on the implementation of other commitments.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Carter has proved that he is well aware of the Israeli mentality, which absolves itself of the first commitment, eventually to absolve itself of other commitments. What the U.S. President expected has happened. The paper adds: Israel is now misleading the world and providing feeble excuses for not implementing its commitments.

In conclusion, the paper believes that the entire world will admit that we are right if we entertain doubts about any Israeli promises in the future. There can be no strong and solid peace if Israel does not change its mentality.

AL-BAKR GETS LETTER FROM GISCARD ON FRENCH POLICY

JN181156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 December--French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing has declared that his country believes that the unity of the Arabs is a positive factor not only regarding the future of the Arab nation, but regarding the balanced development of international relations as well.

In a message to President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr in reply to the message President al-Bakr sent to President Giscard informing him of the results of the ninth Arab summit conference held in Baghdad on 2 November 1978, President Giscard spoke about France's stand toward the Arab issue. He said this stand is based on France's belief that a just peace cannot be achieved except by finding a comprehensive solution in which all sides concerned can participate, including the representatives of the Palestinian people.

President Giscard expressed his pleasure over learning about the results of the Arab summit conference. He said such information is an indication of the relations of confidence existing between our two countries and of our will to exchange information on important questions of mutual interest.

SADDAM HUSAYN SENDS THANK-YOU CABLE TO FIDEL CASTRO

JN181200Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 18 December--Saddam Husayn, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Revolution Command Council vice chairman, has expressed his confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and Cuba will continue to grow and prosper on the parth of achieving joint goals.

In a cable to Dr Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, on the occasion of the end of his visit to Cuba, Saddam Husayn expressed his great thanks and profound gratitude for the hospitality and cordial welcome accorded him and his delegation. He also expressed his wishes for good health and happiness for Dr Castro and the party and state leaders, and for further victories for the struggling Cuban people.

IRAQ, POLAND SIGN ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AGREEMENT

JN151839Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 15 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 December--Iraq and Poland signed here this evening an economic and technical cooperation agreement. Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and minister of trade, signed the agreement for Iraq; and Jerzy Olszewski, minister of foreign trade and maritime economy, signed the agreement for Poland.

The agreement, signed at the end of the 2-day meetings of the 5th session of the Iraqi-Polish joint ministerial committee, provides for increasing Iraqi exports of dates and sulphur to Poland and increasing the export of Polish commodities to Iraq.

SYRIA, IRAQ REACH INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JN161935Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Dec 78 JN

[Text] A formula for an agreement has been reached by fraternal Syria and Iraq to promote the systems of cooperation between the industrialists in the two countries in industry and industrial investment and to facilitate the transfer of labor and expertise between the two countries. The formula will also help in exchanging assistance through the training institutes in both countries.

The agreement came in implementation of the Joint National Action Charter signed by fraternal Syria and Iraq and as a result of the talks held by the delegation of the Damascus Chamber of Industry with the Union of Iraqi Industry during the Syrian delegation's recent visit to Baghdad.

Regarding commerce, a joint program of action was reached by the chambers of commerce in the two countries with the goal of unifying the status of the workers in various economic sectors. The program also aims to strengthen economic cooperation and trade exchange between the two countries.

LEBANESE CP LEADER CONCLUDES VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN170922Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 December--Dr George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party and vice chairman of the Central Political Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, left Baghdad this morning following a 1-day visit to Iraq during which he held talks with a number of officials in the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Speaking to INA before his departure, Dr Hawi affirmed that during the talks, viewpoints were identical on the need to solve the Lebanese crisis politically and to safeguard Lebanon's national entity. Experience has proved, he said, that violence and fighting will not solve the Lebanese crisis and that dialog is the only means to solve the country's crisis.

Dr Hawi added that the talks also dealt with the requirements of continuing the struggle to safeguard Lebanon's unity and Arabism. Dr Hawi said that the Lebanese Nationalist Movement is seeking to formulate a general national trend representing the majority of the public and political circles which are opposed to dealing with the Zionist enemy, which believe in Lebanon's unity and freedom, and which are fighting against Zionist occupation of the territory of southern Lebanon.

INA, NCNA TO EXPAND COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS

JN171846Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 December--Cooperation talks between INA and NCNA started here today. The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by INA Director General Muhammad Manaf Yasin. The Chinese side was headed by NCNA Deputy Director (?Liu Ching Chi).

During the meeting, they agreed to expand the fields of cooperation between the two agencies by renewing the previous agreement, which provides for the exchange of news reports, the various press services, expertise and visits.

It should be recalled that the NCNA delegation is visiting Iraq at the invitation of INA with the aim of developing cooperation between the two agencies.

LE MONDE DISCUSSES HUSAYN'S FRENCH PRESS CONFERENCE

LD181603Y Paris LE MONDE in French 16 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[R.D. report: "A Security Council Meeting Might Be Envisaged"]

[Text] King Husayn gave a press conference in the Hotel Marigny on Thursday 14 December at the end of his visit to France and took the opportunity to reaffirm Jordan's cautious stance on the Camp David agreements. After announcing that Mr Giscard d'Estaing could make an official visit to Jordan at the end of next year, he stated: "We have not accepted the Camp David agreements because we want justice and a global settlement. We have adopted a clear position on that question."

Questioned on the conditions posed by Jordan for its possible participation in negotiations on the future status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he replied: "We are maintaining the same policy and will wait and see what result the envisaged procedure will have. Is this the end of the occupation of Arab territories occupied since 1967? Will Palestinian rights be recognized? Are we moving toward a settlement of the conflict and peace? Are we moving toward application of the Security Council resolutions? If we are, we will take part in the negotiations. But, for the moment, we have only received vague replies to our questions from the United States. Everything depends on Israel."

With regard to the link between the two Camp David framework agreements, the king declared: "There must obviously be a link between the two agreements, not only in essence but in substance and application, with a view to reaching a global settlement. A link limited to self-rule for the Palestinians would not be enough. The procedure would not have any clear goal." On the possibility of an expanded conference, the king stated: "A UN Security Council meeting could be envisaged wherein the council could enable all parties concerned to meet, including the Palestinians, the great powers, and, if possible, the European countries."

KING HUSAYN'S ACTIVITIES IN UNITED KINGDOM REPORTED

Discusses Mideast With Owen

JN182018Y Amman Domestic Television Service in English 2000 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] His majesty the king received at his residence in London this evening British Foreign Secretary David Owen. During the meeting, his majesty and Dr Owen discussed issues affecting the international scene, particularly the Middle East problem. The king and the British foreign secretary also discussed efforts being exerted in bringing about peace in the area, and exchanged views on the current situation. Anglo-Jordanian relations were also discussed.

Interviewed on BBC TV

LD190012Y London BBC Domestic Television Service in English 2010 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Interview with Jordan's King Husayn in London on 18 December by Fred Emery--recorded; broadcast on the Panorama program]

[Text] [Emery] Jordan's King Husayn is here at the moment, completing a European tour, trying to get his views across to the Western allies.

He is seeing David Owen tonight and the prime minister later in the week. And he talked to me in London this morning.

[King Husayn] The time has come for us to consider not only in the Middle East but in the entire world the possibility of returning to the Security Council of the United Nations, to see if we can get a clarification of what Security Council Resolution 242 means, and maybe regain the momentum towards peace. After all, the recent summit at Baghdad contributed, I believe, positively in many areas, but in one specific area we were all very clear that the Arab world sought establishment of a just durable peace, and at the right conditions we are ready and it must be a comprehensive settlement, a global settlement of all the issues related to the Palestinian problem with all the parties involved partaking in formulating a peace that will last.

[Question] Hasn't that way been tried once before through the Geneva conference and wasn't there a deadend, wasn't that the reason that President as-Sadat took his initiative to go to Jerusalem to bring us to the present position?

[Answer] I do not believe it was a deadend. I believe that, thinking back now, we were on the verge of getting agreement amongst the Arab states and the PLO on what the Arab position should be, and moving towards Geneva. Events took another course when President as-Sadat made his initiative, and right now we have to look for a new way which would involve all of us.

[Question] Now the Americans have been complaining that you have been refusing to go and see President Carter since the Camp David agreements were initialed last September. Will you now go straight to the United States to meet him to put these proposals to him?

[Answer] No, I will be returning to Jordan, but hopefully at an appropriate time in the future, in terms of the United States and Jordan, I would be able to visit the United States and I would not hesitate to put my views across to our friends there.

[Question] Well now, can we assume that will be shortly, because I think we could assume also that the Americans will not leave the Camp David suspension, if you like, where it is, that as soon as the new year comes they will put very strong pressure both on Israel and Egypt, in fact to sign the treaties? Don't you expect that and are you going to try to intervene with the Americans before that, or shall we say take the process further after they have signed?

[Answer] I believe our American friends know what our position is, and what it has been all along. We have sought peace with our strength over many many years, but the kind of peace that we wish is one that will be accepted by all those who will follow us. And it must obviously include the return of all the territories occupied in June of '67, including the return of Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem, and, more important, the right of self-determination under conditions of total freedom to the people of Palestine.

[Question] But President as-Sadat has, after all, made a link between the Sinai agreement and the progress towards some self-governing authority on the West Bank. You felt that he hadn't; you mentioned earlier that this was sort of separate peace for Egypt. Hasn't he made it clear to the rest of the Arab world that he is in fact interested in what the Americans call a framework for peace, but this is not just a separate deal, but is meant to be an ongoing process?

[Answer] Our readings of all that we have seen and certainly of the Israeli attitude and the Israeli acts and actions on the ground, so to speak, have been since Camp David that there was no real balance between the two agreements, the one dealing with the rest of the problems in terms of the West Bank and Gaza and other occupied areas, and the one dealing with Egypt and Israel.

[Question] But surely the whole point of Camp David is to begin a process and not just to sit in a sort of stagnation, always mouthing demands for the ideal solution, but actually to start a process forward. Now you say why isn't self-rule clear for the Palestinians. Surely, this particular agreement that has been negotiated is an attempt to move towards a form of self-rule and then ultimately, determination of the status of the West Bank? What are your views on that? The Americans seem to have been trying to get you to agree to a federation between Jordan, and the West Bank of the Jordan?

[Answer] What is wrong with this argument is that the basic issue is ignored; it is not what the Americans could persuade me or persuade others to accept, it is what the people would wish, and what people would want, and as far as the people are concerned, the Palestinian people should exercise their right of self-determination, a sacred right in regard to the world as a whole under conditions of freedom, and then decide. I am opposed to anything that gives Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and other occupied territories any form of legitimacy. I am for everything and anything that helps remove this Israeli occupation and gives the Palestinians, even the Palestinians, their legitimate rights, and a homeland. This is really the long and the short of it.

[Question] Your Majesty, you have mentioned Jerusalem. Now, the Arabs, we know, wish to recover East Jerusalem and the Israelis say it is indivisible. Isn't it time for the Arab side to come up with something positive to break this deadlock?

[Answer] I do not believe that it is possible for us to come up with anything to break this deadlock. It is an attachment to a city, to holy places which belong in reality not even to the people of Palestine themselves, not to any Arab state but to the Arab and the Muslim world as a whole, affecting hundreds of millions of people everywhere, and the return of Arab sovereignty over the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem means Arab rights in terms of Muslims and Christians alike and the people of Palestine obviously. So Jerusalem is really a very serious problem on the ground... [Emery interrupts]

[Question] In relation to the West Bank agreement, what is it that you feel should be done about Jerusalem, and the people of greater Jerusalem?

[Answer] In terms of Jerusalem itself, it must be returned to Arab sovereignty, one does not envisage Jerusalem in a context of peace being a divided city, but a symbol of peace, and the symbol of peace in terms of the meeting of all believers in God.

[Question] If not a divided city, does this mean that you would actually favor an internationalization of Jerusalem?

[Answer] No, but I would like to see Jerusalem in a context of peace as the essence of peace, with the Arabs enjoying their sovereignty over their Arab part of the city and the Israelis having their rights in their area. However, if there is any possible discussion of internationalization I think it should not apply to the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem, but to the entire area of Jerusalem, including the Israeli part.

[Question] Your Majesty, I would like to move on to what has happened in other parts of the Middle East since the Baghdad summit.

The balance has come into some jeopardy with the situation in Iran. What is your view of a possibly extreme Islamic and anti-American government coming to power in Iran?

[Answer] The sad part about the recent happenings in Iran is that one cannot see exactly what the future hides in terms of Iran and or in terms of all of us in that entire area and maybe the world as a whole. We have had the closest relations with Iran. His imperial majesty has been like a brother, and a friend to me for many years and this friendship started with my grandfather when they both sought to bring the Muslim world together. And Iran in terms of Shi'ites, they are the brethren and family as far as my house is concerned. They are the supporters of the House of the Prophet, and I am honored to belong to that family. But what is happening is really very worrying, because one doesn't know exactly what the end result might be.

[Question] I mean if the shah is forced to leave power, what do you think will happen then?

[Answer] I really hope a solution could be found that would insure that Iran is stable, and that extreme solutions would not be reached. Iran otherwise could very easily be fragmented, could be weakened and the impact on the entire world would be very very great.

PRIME MINISTER BADRAN RECEIVES PLO DELEGATION

JN181238Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office this morning the PLO delegation headed by Hamid Abu Sittah. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, minister of information, director of the executive office for the affairs of the occupied territory and head of the Jordanian side at the talks with the PLO delegation.

During this meeting, the prime minister was informed of the results achieved in the talks so far. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction with these results.

AD-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS VISITING SOVIET OFFICIAL

JN181104Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Dec 78 pp 1, 5 JN

[Report on Muhammad Abu Ghawsh interview with Varvara Nikolayevna Grigalashvili, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgia SSR in Amman--date not given]

[Excerpts] Varvara Nikolayevna Grigalashvili, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgia SSR and chairman of the delegation of Soviet journalists currently visiting Jordan, has declared that the Soviet Union welcomes Jordan's stand as recently expressed by His Majesty King Husayn. King Husayn had declared that convening the Geneva conference is the means to insure a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question.

Grigalashvili said that the Soviet Union supports and will continue to support the Arab states in their struggle to eliminate all traces of Israeli aggression.

Grigalashvili explained that the Soviet Union welcomes the views recently expressed by His Majesty King Husayn in France when he said that "convening the Geneva conference will secure a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East question."

In a statement to AD-DUSTUR, Grigalashvili said that the Soviet Union is working and will continue to work with all its power to support the Arab peoples in their struggle to eliminate all traces of Israeli aggression. He said that resumption of the Geneva conference would play an important role in a comprehensive and complete settlement of the Middle East issues.

Asked about developments in the Middle East situation, Grigalashvili said: The Arab world is today witnessing an important phase of its history. The decision by Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat to engage in separate talks with Israel has created several problems in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Camp David agreements, on whose basis the Egyptian-Israeli talks are taking place to reach a separate peace treaty, are helping Israel hold onto the Arab lands occupied in 1967. They are also obstructing the solution to the Palestinian issue, which, as is known, is the crux of the Middle East crisis.

Naturally, such separate deals are in conflict with a comprehensive political settlement in the Middle East. Such a settlement is in harmony with the interests of all the peoples in the area. Furthermore, these deals contradict the UN resolutions and the task of consolidating security. They also lead to the aggravation of tension.

Asked his opinion of the recent Soviet-Iraqi talks, Grigalashvili said: The Soviet-Iraqi talks ended in success. It is an important new step toward strengthening complete and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

Asked about the Soviet Union's assessment of the Baghdad summit, he said: All indications are that the resolutions of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad provide a good basis for effective confrontation of all attempts to impose Israeli occupation on the Arabs as a fait accompli and to usurp the right of the Palestinians to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Asked his opinion of Jordanian-Soviet relations and of the possibility of developing them, he said: I am pleased to point out that Jordanian-Soviet relations are developing on the basis of friendship. There is a trend toward expanding and strengthening these relations. This trend appeared following the visit by His Majesty King Husayn to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1976. There was also the visit of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan to the Soviet Union last autumn. These visits have laid down a solid foundation for consolidating the good relations between our two countries in various political, economic, trade, cultural and sports fields.

Official Departs 18 Dec

JN181537Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 18 December--Grigalashvili, member of the board of the USSR Journalists Union, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Georgia SSR and chief editor of ZARYA VOSTOKA, the official newspaper of the Georgia SSR, left Amman today following a 1-week visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Information Ministry. The visit came within the framework of the cultural and scientific cooperation program concluded between the ministry and the USSR Journalists Union.

Grigalashvili discussed with Jordanian officials ways to cooperate and joint issues, particularly pertaining to journalist relations and information media. During his visit, he visited information establishments and historic and tourist sites in Jordan.

IRISH UNFIL CONTINGENT COMES UNDER RIGHTIST FIRE

JN181731Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 Dec--The Irish contingent operating with the UN force in southern Lebanon came under sporadic fire this afternoon at the hands of the rightist militia. Fire was aimed at the Irish positions in Bayt Yahun and Tibnin in the central sector of the border area.

The INA correspondent in the south cites UN sources as saying that the firing at the UN forces came from the Saff al-Hawa' position which is controlled by the militia. No casualties have been reported.

The correspondent points out that four shells fell this afternoon on the Litani River course in the eastern sector, making the roads precarious.

TERRORISTS SHELL SOUTHERN LEBANESE TARGET 18 DEC

TA182036Y Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2020 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Metulla, 18 Dec--After 2 months of relative quiet and an armistice between the terrorists and the Christian villages in southern Lebanon, the terrorists shelled Al-Qulay'ah north of Metulla on Monday morning.

The fire was directed from the terrorists' position near the Beauport Fortress. The Christian forces returned fire.

Early in the evening the terrorists attacked Al Qulay'ah again with submachinegun fire and fire was again returned. No casualties or damages were reported.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS FIRING IN BEIRUT 19 DEC

NC190910Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 19 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Today at 0930 the Syrian forces suddenly opened machinegun and RPG fire in the At-Tayyunah area. The firing extended to Hursh al-Kufuri and the sound of machinegun fire and missiles can still be heard. A battle is taking place in Al-Matahin area, in which RPG and anti-armor weapons are being used. The Chevrolet, 'Ayn Ar-Rummanah, Gelerie Sim'an areas and As'ad al-As'ad Street are experiencing similar battles. Explosions, shooting and 26mm anti-armor fire was heard in Sinn al-Fil while the As-Sayfi area has been subjected to sniper fire.

Well-informed circles do not rule out the possibility that the current shooting aims at foiling the Chamber of Deputies session due to be held today to debate the government statement on current issues, particularly those related to security and political affairs.

BUTRUS STATEMENT ON RESETTLEMENT QUESTION REPORTED

NC181315Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 18 Dec 78 NC

[Text] At the end of today's activity at the Foreign Ministry, reporters asked Minister Fu'ad Butrus about the proposed resettlement subject. Butrus said: Resettlement will lead to political instability and will not contribute to solving problems and creating a natural atmosphere. It will harm the Palestine issue and Lebanon's interests in particular.

AL-ASAD SENDS LETTER TO PALESTINIAN STUDENTS CONFERENCE

JN182036Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text of letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to the Eighth National Conference of the General Union of Palestinian students read at the opening session on 18 December in Lebanon]

[Text] Brothers, members of the Eighth National Conference of the General Union of Palestinian Students:

It gives me pleasure to send to you my personal greetings and the greetings of your people in the Syrian Arab region with my best wishes. In any country the students are the armament for the future and the bright hope for the nation. With their youthful spirit they represent the force and energy for continuous progress and with their knowledge and ideas they represent the greatest ammunition for the country in facing and overcoming contemporary challenges. The meeting of the students of a certain country is, therefore, a meeting of the elements of the people who will shoulder the responsibility of taking up the march of the people, continuing this march and achieving its goals.

For Palestinian students, the first and loftiest goal is the liberation of the land and the restoration of the usurped rights of the Arab people of Palestine. During the years of struggle in support of the Palestinian cause, which is the sacred and first Arab cause, the Palestinian students have proven that they are worthy of this task and that they are a firm bastion for the Palestinian revolution. These students have fed the revolution with thousands of youths who have fought the enemy on the soil of the usurped homeland and who have struggled against its venomous propaganda and obscurantist publications on the world level. On both levels they have been powerful fighters and alert strugglers against the enemy's allegations and prevarications.

Brothers, your task now is greater than at any time before. Your eighth conference is being held while we in the Arab homeland are facing the fiercest imperialist and Zionist offensive and the most cunning of their plots against our homeland. The crux of the struggle has always been the cause of our Arab people in Palestine. What makes this offensive and plot more serious is that an Arab side has accepted to take part in them. By taking the line of capitulation and humiliation and by its participation in the Camp David plot, Egypt has not only renounced its responsibilities in the Arab struggle but has transferred itself to the side which makes it an arch enemy of this struggle. Since the Palestinian cause is the crux of the dispute between the Arab nation on the one hand and the sides of the plot on the other, the plot is aimed at the whole Arab homeland. It will begin by liquidating our main cause: the cause of Palestine.

In view of recent developments and as a result of the Arab nation sensing the danger, the Arabs' awareness has become sharp and they have become more concerned over the Palestinian Arab cause. The Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation, with the PLO as a main member, affirmed during its third conference in Damascus that efforts will be doubled to foil the Camp David plot and the results of this plot. I am sure you are aware that in our struggle we draw our strength from our national Arab identity. You shoulder the task of deepening this sense of belonging and of promoting it, especially at this stage in which Arab nationalism is facing a fierce and evil offensive from all those who hate us and from the agents. Undoubtedly, the strengthening of Palestinian national unity is one of the main tasks of struggle at this stage. My confidence that you will preserve this unity and promote it is only equalled by my confidence in the effectiveness of your struggle on all the levels of struggle.

I wish you complete success in your conference. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

KUWAITI PAPER: SYRIAN PRESIDENT MIGHT VISIT MOSCOW

LD181115Y Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 14 Dec 78 pp 1, 19 LD

[Excerpt] Damascus--Special AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM dispatch--Well-informed diplomatic sources here said that the talks which Vice Chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council Saddam Husayn held with Soviet leaders have greatly succeeded in settling the present problem between Damascus and Moscow regarding arms deliveries to Syria and the payment for such arms.

The sources referred to the paragraph in the joint statement which said that "the Soviet Union expresses its appreciation for the determination of the Iraqi and Syrian leaderships to thwart capitulation plans and to develop unity relations between them in order to strengthen the unity of the Arab countries, resist Zionist aggression and safeguard the legitimate national rights." The sources considered this as a positive sign that the Syrian-Soviet dispute had been settled.

The sources did not rule out the possibility of Saddam Husayn's paying a visit to the Syrian capital in order to brief its leaders on the outcome of his talks with the Soviet leaders.

The sources also said that President Hafiz al-Asad is likely to make his visit to the Soviet Union, which was postponed earlier, in view of the outcome of the Iraqi vice chairman's visit to Moscow.

TALKS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION BEGIN IN DAMASCUS

JN172142Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 17 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Party and political talks between the delegation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, and the delegation of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee led by Comrade Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and secretary of the party Central Committee, began at the national command building at 1730 today.

The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere. The two sides exchanged views on relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries and the means of developing these relations in the service of the two peoples and the causes of liberation and peace in the world.

Comrade Bilak reiterated the position of his country and party on the Middle East conflict and said that just and lasting peace in the Middle East area cannot be achieved unless Israel completely withdraws from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate national rights are restored, including their right to establish their independent state on their soil.

Comrade Bilak praised Syria's principled stands under Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party secretary general and president of the republic, and the important struggling role Syria is playing to decisively confront separate deals and imperialist-Zionist schemes aimed at dealing a blow to Arab liberation movements and imposing capitulation on the Arab nation.

Comrade al-Ahmar briefed the Czechoslovak side on the Arab Ba'th Party achievements under Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic on all levels, and Al-Ahmar discussed the efforts exerted by Syria to confront the Zionist-imperialist aggression and the capitulation deals that have created an imbalance in the area in favor of the Zionist enemy after As-Sadat's regime has removed fraternal Egypt from the confrontation line against imperialism and Zionism and placed it on the side of the enemy.

Comrade Al-Ahmar said that this imperialist-Zionist scheme is aimed at imposing capitulation on the Arab nation and consequently at liquidating the Palestinian issue.

Comrade al-Ahmar then pointed out Syria's moves and activities to confront this scheme. He also explained the resolutions of the third congress of the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation that was held in Damascus.

Comrade al-Ahmar also outlined the Joint Charter for National Action between Syria and Iraq. He said this charter came to support the Arab nation's positions via-a-vis the vicious imperialist onslaught.

Comrade al-Ahmar explained the achievements of the Arab summit conference in Baghdad, including the resolutions to confront the current situation and future contingencies. He also explained that the summit has categorically rejected the treasonous Camp David agreements.

The session ended at 2030 today.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the talks will be resumed at 2030 on Tuesday 19 December.

Comrade al-Ahmar hosted a dinner banquest in honor of Comrade Vasil Bilak and the accompanying delegation. The dinner was attended by the members of the two delegations and several members of the Ba'th Party national and regional commands.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES LEBANESE PARTY OFFICIALS

JN181536Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 18 Dec --'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon received a delegation from the command of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party in Lebanon. The delegation consisted of 'Abdallah Sa'adah, Wadi' al-Hilu and Yusuf al-Ashqar.

Khaddam and the guest delegation discussed the current situation in fraternal Lebanon.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE'S CONDITION 'WORSENING' TO 'POINT OF DEATH'

LD181426Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] It has been confirmed in Algiers that President Boumediene's state of health is worsening by the hour. The Algerian president is at the point of death. Alain Menargues who has just contacted Algiers by telephone, reports that there is no comment from official circles but there is a certain nervousness in the streets of Algiers where police patrols have been reinforced.

Internal Hemorrhage

LD190022Y Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] In Algiers the state of health of President Boumediene has again deteriorated following an internal hemorrhage. His health has deteriorated to such an extent that the head of the resuscitation department of the Cochin Hospital in Paris, Professor (Monsalier), was again urgently called to the bedside of the Algerian president on the afternoon of 18 December.

YAHIAOUI CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AFTER MOROCCAN 'AGGRESSION'

LD181420Y Algiers APS in French 1000 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Algiers, 18 Dec 78, APS--Mr Salah Yahiaoui, member of the Council of the Revolution responsible for party affairs, had a meeting with the National Council of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA) on Sunday. The meeting followed the grave aggression perpetrated by the authorities of the Rabat regime.

Recalling the Council of the Revolution communique firmly condemning this attempted aggression, Mohamed Salah Yahiaoui urged the worker representatives to remain vigilant in the face of any attempt perpetrated by imperialism and reaction against Algeria, its people and the revolution. He also launched an appeal to all workers and all active forces of the nation for constant mobilization in order to oppose anything that could jeopardize the revolutionary achievements for which the Algerian people have made great sacrifices.

The representatives of 17 national federations of the UGTA adopted a motion during Sunday's meeting in which they denounce these attempts and call on the masses to show vigilance.

FORMER COUNCIL MEMBER WILLING TO HELP IN 'DEMOCRATIZATION' PROCESS

LD181249Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 6 Dec 78 pp 1, 6 LD

[MAP report: "Ait-Ahmed Calls for Election of Sovereign Constituent Assembly by Universal Suffrage"]

[Excerpts] Paris, 6 Dec--In a statement issued to the press in Paris on Tuesday afternoon, Mr Hocine Ait-Ahmed, Algerian oppositionist in exile and former member of the "National Council of the Revolution," calls for the establishment of an interim government in Algeria to supervise immediately the organization of elections by universal suffrage for a sovereign constituent assembly.

Here is the full text of Mr Ait-Ahmed's statement:

We should not hear blame on one man alone--Boumediene, who is still today fighting for his life.

Nor is it a question of blaming certain personalities from the "Council of the Revolution" or other state organs for a form of administration which has plunged our country into veritable bankruptcy in all spheres--moral, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic.

The days of scapegoats and "settling of accounts" must be over forever.

It is time to examine our consciences seriously and honestly.

All the Algerian people--and every Algerian--have at some decisive given moment been either responsible for or accomplices to what has happened to them, if only through passiveness, opportunism or simply an error of political judgment.

In reality, what is on trial is a system of government which has turned its back on the strongest, most confirmed democratic traditions of our people and our revolution.

On 5 July 1962 Algeria achieved political independence. The establishment of a lawful order, legal and political security for citizens, both men and women, and guaranteed respect for human rights, public, language and trade union freedoms should have enabled the Algerian people to remain masters of their political destiny, to safeguard and promote their right to economic and cultural self-determination and, above all, to lay for themselves the local, regional and national foundations of the state.

Some 16 years after acceding to international sovereignty, the Algerian people are still stripped of their national sovereignty. Algerian men and women are deprived of the democratic and revolutionary prerogatives of choosing freely, monitoring and, if necessary, dismissing their mandated representatives at all levels.

During the few days of supervised freedom granted to them in 1976 during the national charter "campaigns of explanation," the Algerian people demanded democratization of their political, economic and cultural institutions.

Far from responding to this key problem which still faces the nation, the rigged elections and prefabricated organs swept it under the carpet and hence exacerbated the poverty, corruption, wastefulness, nepotism and all the phenomena of oppression and regression which burden the working masses above all.

What we are seeing today is a real case of institutional bankruptcy when we evoke the "power vacuum," which is in reality a complete blockage in an administrative system based on a power monopoly.

Those inside the country who are jostling around their leader's body and those abroad who are playing a third country's game need to be reminded that the Algerian people are the only ones who hold sovereignty and the sole source of legitimacy.

The time has therefore come to restore to the Algerian people what belongs to the Algerian people. No man or group of men has the right to take the place of the nation's will.

The return to people's legitimacy must be consolidated by the election of a sovereign constituent assembly by universal suffrage.

An interim government must be formed as soon as possible to organize these elections as a matter of urgency, in an orderly manner, with respect for differences and with full guarantees of fair play.

It can be composed of wise patriots, known for their attachment to political freedom and democracy, without any kind of veto on belonging to the present government or opposition groups.

It must introduce freedom of association, assembly and information, recognize the Berber language as a national language on the same footing as Arabic, guarantee rights of safety and particularly the right to "come and go."

This presupposes releasing all political prisoners and creating a climate of profound reconciliation worthy of the finest pages of our history.

For my part, I am ready to participate in any efforts which would make it possible to initiate and pursue a peaceful, ordered process of gradual but thorough democratization.

Algeria needs all abilities and all patriots.

I ask all Algerian men and women to emerge from their passive, wait-and-see attitude. They have a duty to consult each other and to group together in their villages, districts, farms, factories, colleges and universities to take bold but nonviolent initiatives, with a view to provoking and completing a powerful movement toward the democratization of society and its institutions.

Their future, their children's future and the honor of Algeria are at stake.

LIBYA

FOURTH GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CONTINUES IN TRIPOLI

Al-Qadhdhafi's 16 Dec Address

LD161914Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Speech by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, secretary general of the Libyan General People's Congress, at the opening session of the Fourth General People's Congress in Tripoli--live]

[Excerpt] At the beginning we salute delegations of the basic people's congresses from outside the Jamahiriyah. These delegations embrace Arab expatriates in various parts of the world and include delegations of the Arabs in Sidney, Australia, in [name indistinct], Brazil, in Sao Paulo, Brazil also and [name indistinct] Latin America. I also salute brothers who have honored us with their presence such as the leaders of the POLISARIO Front and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Government, the Socialist Party of Yemen and the National Union of Popular Forces of Morocco. On this occasion I would like to underline the duty which we have toward our Arab nation to which our actions are related. We would like to underscore our alliance with the Arab masses which are struggling everywhere for freedom. We are aware that the people, for example of Rio d'Oro and Seguia el Hamra, are small in number. But they are not the only people whose independence is recognized in the world and who occupy a seat in the United Nations. There are many other small nations and states inside and outside the Arab world.

We would have liked to have seen the accomplishment of unity in the Arab Maghreb. But we are not in control of those who struggle in the various parts of the Maghreb and therefore we cannot make them choose a particular side. It is up to them to make their choice. They know better how to determine their future.

However, we in this homeland should clearly reject any attempt to drive any group of people like a flock of sheep, and also any attempt to affront the Arab man. What is now taking place around us is an obvious effrontery to a group of the Arab nation, the sons of West Sahara or the Saguia el Hamra and Rio d'Oro. The question of subjecting them to indignity, destitution and murder is one thing and the question of their admission into unity with Morocco or Mauritania is something else. We do not discuss the latter question but have our views on the first question. Everyone is familiar with this.

It is also our duty to stand on the side of the PDRY. Plots are being (?continually) hatched against the PDRY for no reason other than the fact that it wants to build its own future in the way it deems fit. Every people are free to determine their future in the way they want. But it would be inadmissable to coerce the people of Yemen to make them abandon a certain system or determine their future in a certain manner satisfactory to others. No one can tell the people of Yemen to build socialism or capitalism, to form a particular front or party, to hold a conference or to pursue a particular line.

Because they are using their free and new options in the Arabian Peninsula, our brothers in Yemen are being subjected to oppression and acts of defiance by their own brothers as well as the enemy who is in alliance with [word indistinct].

We must not hesitate to stand on the side of the popular forces in Morocco which are struggling for the options which have been stated to us by the brother who has spoken on behalf of the national union of popular forces. They are options common to all of us stemming from our heritage and history and uniting us in one destiny for the Arab nation from the ocean to the gulf.

If anything has cast a cloud in the sky it has been the illness of President Houari Boumediene, brother, friend and neighbor; the ally of Libya, Syria, the Palestinian people, Yemen and the Saharan people. I implore God to extend a recovery to him. At the same time we would like to stress that the relationship between Libyans and Algerians does not depend on an individual. It is a relationship between one Arab and another, between brothers and between neighbors. It is the relationship of one nation, homeland, belief and destiny. The ties are eternal which do not disappear with individuals. We would like to assure Algeria in this critical period of our moral alliance with the Algerian people and of our stand on their side with or without Boumediene.

During the last session of this congress, the open dialog began between the Egyptian Government and the Israeli enemy. The session ended before all the matters relating to this question became fully exposed. During this session the situation is quite clear to the popular congresses in the Jamahiriyah which see how far the betrayal has gone.

It hurt us to put Egypt on the blacklist and to apply to it the same boycott as applies to the Israelis. Under this, Egyptian production and nationals have been blacklisted as a result of the policy of their regime. Even films and pictures cannot be bought or acquired because this would be as bad as buying them from the Israeli enemy. If we had any dealings with Egyptians in these circumstances, it would be like having dealings with the Israelis, the enemy.

It is indeed regrettable that Egypt, with its people and soil which we love and with its unforgetable stands in the history of the Arab nation, is now on the blacklist and that it opens its borders to the enemy. Egypt, which used to tighten its stranglehold of the Israeli enemy now faces the whole world with its action to lift the blockade from the Israeli enemy and opens arteries, which used to be blocked, to the heart of the enemy. The action of the Arabs to block several arteries caused deadly clots to the existence of the enemy in the occupied land. One such artery was the Suez Canal, in addition to the Arab Gulf of Aqaba and the economic and political boycott. Now unfortunately, Egypt is dealing with these deadly clots in order to revive the enemy by opening the Suez Canal to him, and his military and commercial ships. Goods and ammunition are transported to the occupied land in order to be placed in the hands of the enemy and communications between him and the world have been opened to help him; to say nothing about the full (?abandonment) of the Gulf of Aqaba and the Tiran Straits [words indistinct] the boycott of Israel is to be lifted, the airline companies and maritime navigation are to exchange services. Then there are the land communication line, cultural and economic cooperation and the readiness to exchange ambassadors. Work is in progress all the time between Egypt and the Israeli enemy in order to achieve these.

What does this mean? It means that the war of 1967 was wrong, 1948 was wrong, the Palestinian revolt of 1936 was wrong, 1956 was wrong and 1973 was wrong. This means that the Arabs were mistaken in confronting this danger and that the Egyptian Government sees nothing wrong in this danger and that the land which the enemy occupies, so the Egyptian Government now says, is his land, and that we Arabs have been wrong and ignorant of this fact and all our sacrifices were in vain. This means that those of us who fell in battle are in hell and the enemy's dead in paradise.

However, nothing in fact has changed. Palestine remains Palestine and what is called Israel is something alien; we have been hearing this since 1948. Palestine is for the Palestinian Arabs and Jews. What is called Israel is similar to what is called Rhodesia which was built on the ruins of Zimbabwe. This phenomenon was created by European, American and (Eurasian) immigrants. These are the ones who formed the so-called Israel. But geography knows only Palestine, the Palestine of the Arabs and Jews who have been there since ancient times living side by side with the Palestinians. We do not believe this was the result of the use of force. But it was the use of force which elicited recognition for the enemy and the lifting of the blockade of him compelled others who were defeated by him to recognize all the conquests he achieved with force. They are not rightly his.

Yasir 'Arafat was going to honor us with his presence in this session but his aircraft was delayed. The Palestine people, led by the PLO, are determined to struggle until victory. We have no option but to extend to this people every help we can give.

This session which embraces popular congresses and committees and trades unions takes place in a period of historical fundamental changes which are close to (?completion). The transition to socialism has been accomplished and so has the transition from a community of exploitation, capitalism, class-system, slave-master relationship, hired labor, consumers of the product of others. The transition from this society to a new [word indistinct] society has been achieved. It will be a society free from political and social ills, from the exploitation of man by man, the enslavement of man by man and from political coercion and tyranny. This is because power is moving into the hands of the masses. This session is taking place in this climate of serious changes. Fortunately, and praise be to God, these changes are occuring quite peacefully.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Conscription

LD162100Y Tripoli JANA in English 1618 GMT 16 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 16 Dec, JANA--The General People's Congress commenced its fourth regular session at 10 o'clock this morning to draft the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the basic popular congresses after detailed and thorough discussions on 17 items on their agenda.

Upon arrival of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1st of September revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, [words indistinct] (God is great) anthem after which verses of the holy Koran were read.

Then Mr al-Kharratti Ahmad delivered a speech on behalf of the National Union of the Moroccan Popular Forces, at the beginning of which he greeted the leader of the revolution and the Jamahiriyah people on behalf of the Moroccan freedom fighters and popular forces.

Mr. al-Kharratti referred to the efforts being made by these forces in the way of realizing an Arab socialist homeland, and said that the national union was struggling in difficult circumstances but was destined to attain victory against opportunism, and the deception of the masses.

Mr al-Kharratti called for the consolidation of cooperation among the Arab liberation organizations, the consolidation of their programmes of struggle, the liberation of the general Arab situation, and agreement on a unified strategy with the progressive movements in the world.

Concluding his speech, Mr al-Kharratti affirmed the Moroccan popular forces' rejection of all capitulationist solutions whichever source they came from.

Some of the people's congresses called for the abolition of compulsory military service and adoption of urban militarisation and the armed masses. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi noted that the basic peoples congresses had themselves decided on compulsory conscription and that later the idea of urban militarisation had appeared, calling for the armed masses' swift emergence and the ending of compulsory conscription and the regular army.

He said: "It is not appropriate that you decide on abolishing compulsory military conscription and the regular army bearing in mind that you have not yet militarised your urban centers."

However, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi affirmed that compulsory conscription and the regular army would end automatically when urban militarisation and the armed masses were established.

He said: "We will see....during the next sessions whether the (?popular congresses') will approve urban militarisation."

He affirmed that the question was one which involved the concept of self-defense, defense of the family, farm and the nation.

He said: "Compulsory military service is in the interest of all Libyans, since it allows them to [word indistinct] themselves and their interests, and the evasion of military service is a result of abhorrent past history when Italy enslaved this country and forcibly conscripted its men to use them in fighting Ethiopians within the context of the Italian State's colonial interests. But now compulsory conscription is in the interest of every citizen for it would enable him to defend himself, his family, house, village and also his agriculture, industry, and first and foremost his freedom." Colonel al-Qadhdhafi clarified that the "compulsory conscription is not in the interest of this or that person, so that the citizen tries to escape it and adopts a false birthdate, so as to avoid being conscripted, but it is rather a national duty and the responsibility of every citizen."

In this connection Colonel al-Qadhdhafi indicated that "the Zionists have almost approached the Jamahiriyah borders", and that "nobody would confront them on behalf of others. All citizens should be trained (?so) that they defend themselves against 3/4 million soldiers stationed on the Jamahiriyah borders. He who does not want to be trained so as to be ready to defend his homeland should raise the white flag up and accept to become a slave."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that "the Libyans should succeed in mobilizing armies in the cities before they decide to terminate compulsory conscription".

The session ended at about 1:30 p.m. so that the congress would resume its meetings at 5 p.m. today.

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Speak 17 Dec

LD180204Y Tripoli JANA in English 1626 GMT 17 Dec 78 LD

[Quote marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Dec, JANA--The General People's Congress resumed, at nine o'clock this morning, its fourth ordinary session. At the inauguration of the meeting the secretary general, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, asked congress members to discuss the seventeenth article of the working agenda which deals with external policy, because the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, was present at the meeting.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi clarified some points concerning the unification of the factions the Palestinian resistance. He said "Libyans are aware of the relationship of some of organisations with some Arab countries, and that factions of the Palestinian resistance meant for unity are Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, (General Command), the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and several other minute Palestinian organisations.

He added: "The unification of resistance groups has remained nominal. The best proof for this is the efforts the Jamahiriyah exerted for reestablishing relations between the resistance and Jordan, especially after my latest urgent visit to Jordan with Yasir 'Arafat and our meeting had come under extraordinary circumstances which necessitated my leaving the steadfastness and confrontation summit in Damascus, and in which 'Abu Ammar had entered Jordanian territory from which he was expelled in 1971. These efforts were followed by the publication of some statements by Palestinian organisations which refused to negotiate with Jordan. This is ample proof of disunity among the Palestine resistance."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "If the resistance movement were really unified, no one would have had the right to refuse or criticise the negotiations, since" Abu Ammar, P.L.O.'s chairman, was the one negotiating."

He said: "Efforts exerted to bring Jordan and the resistance closer together are in the interest of the Palestinian resistance. For if the resistance movement did not return to Jordan, it would not be able to continue fighting. Jordanian land is a continuation of Palestinian land, and there is no other wide front with the occupied lands as the one provided by Jordan...through which Palestinians could fight to regain their lands. The Palestinians became refugees after their expulsion from Jordan. They become refugees since their lands were occupied in 1948. They are again being expelled within the Arab countries and are being killed in Lebanon. We would like to ameliorate this disaster and gradual return the Palestinians to Jordan. The important thing is that they should live in the camps with their people in Jordan which is an extension of their occupied territory. We say to them that resuming fighting would take place sometime, and coordination with King Husayn, who undertook such a responsibility. When we met him he said, "support me and do not leave me alone, I am ready to undertake my national responsibility."

If 'Abu Ammar is negotiating in terms of these principles, why were statements issued by Palestinian organizations rejecting the negotiations with Jordan? This is an indication that the Palestinian resistance is divided.

If it is unified then why do they issue such statements and reject negotiations with Jordan, while 'Abu Ammar is negotiating with Jordan in the interest of the Palestinian resistance. Unless the resistance returns to Jordan, they will not be able to fight. There is no other land which is an extension of Palestine except Jordan. There is no other suitable place for the Palestinians except Jordan.

The refugee camps exist in Jordan. The Palestinian and Jordanians are one people.

The unhealthy situation is to expel the Palestinians from Jordan, to block other fronts in their faces and to kill them in Al-Arkub and south Lebanon, so that on the one hand they face (Israel), and on the other the isolationists, or as the common expression has it, they are sandwiched between the hammer and an anvil. It is also said that they should be helped out of this situation by sending them back to Jordan. When King Husayn proves that he is not assuming his national responsibility and is not implementing what he has undertaken to us, then all the organizations would have the right to issue statements and refuse to go back to or negotiate with Jordan. But the man [word indistinct], to keep what we agreed on at Al Mafraq. It was great that King Husayn and 'Abu Ammar should meet for the first time since 1970, amidst the crisis of having to face a common enemy marching on the Arab nation, after the biggest Arab country has surrendered, has recognized the enemy, and has said that this land is (Israel's) and that the (Israelis) are people who must live and expand at the expense of the Arab countries and reach shalom.

Therefore, the 25 congresses which stipulated support for the resistance, were right and responsible for we want the resistance to be like the Algerian Liberation Front, which was one front, and which has attained victory, with the backing of the Arab nation, and has thus commanded the respect of the world. But the Palestinians are still divided into fronts, and if its is difficult for them to unite overnight, there are steps for action which could begin. No one from any of the Palestinian fronts should discredit the work of one group or issue a statement against the measures one takes, for this is wrong in front of the world, especially that the U.N. recognizes the P.L.O., and 'Abu Ammar is chairman of the P.L.O. the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

They could demand his removal from the P.L.O. leadership if he deviates. But the P.L.O. should remain the sole representative of the Palestinian people, just as the world recognises this fact, but 'Abu Ammar has not deviated yet.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, expressed his surprise at the number of martyr fund raising [organizations] and the number of organizations demanding support for one organization or another.

The secretary general of the General People's Congress pointed out that support--whether money or arms--should be presented to the Palestinian revolution. The Algerian Liberation Front was different, and it neither had several funds nor several fronts, and thus every piastre donated went to one front, the liberation front. Therefore the Libyans are right, and I support them in their call for the unification of the Palestinian resistance so we can support one united front.

Yasir 'Arafat then replied by saying that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi before the Damascus conference had tried a lot in the area of unifying the resistance, and Syria did the same, and we were able to reach a resolution at the Palestine National Council in the presence of all organizations' secretaries to go to Jordan and start a dialogue with Jordan in spite of the fact that the large body in the Palestinian revolution could have imposed its opinion, and I am able to impose an opinion but that has its risks. I say that what we agree to in opinion has to be binding for everybody. It is not my fault at all that after I went with my brother Mu'ammar to Jordan, then I called the Central Council with all Palestinian organizations to meet and we agreed to start a dialogue with Jordan in accordance with what took place in Mafraq during the visit with my brother Mu'ammar.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, affirmed in his clarifications at the General People's Congress that the Palestinian revolution was not fighting an enemy of the Palestinian people only, but it was also fighting an enemy of the Arab nation whether it was their wish or not. "The Palestinian cause," he added, "is not only a local or regional cause nor is a limited national liberation cause. It is an Arab cause whether we like it or not. It is therefore a Palestinian cause in its outward manifestation, but an Arab cause in its essence. When I find some Arab interference in the Palestinian revolution I do not feel surprised because our cause is interrelated. It is not a Palestinian cause only, it seems Palestinian in appearance even though it has Arab depths. This is one reason behind the troubles we face."

Mr. 'Arafat then presented a list of the names of martyrs. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi commented on this by saying that other fronts could present the same list even though it is similar to this same list, and a third front could come with a list of the names of its martyrs, and they might be mentioned in this list, and so on.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat said, "when a martyr dies, he is a martyr regardless of the organization he belongs to, therefore an organization of martyrs has been established for all martyrs, starting from the fedayeen and including civilians without any exception. "The Palestinian martyrs' funds absorb 28 million dollars a year," he added.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi then explained that by reviewing item 17 of the agenda which was concerned with assistance for Jordan and Syria, the people's congresses recommended the assistance provided that these countries opened their borders to the Palestinian resistance when they wanted to fight and provided that they did not negotiate with the enemy whether directly or indirectly, or with those who negotiate with it.

As for the confrontation resolutions of the Arab summit, these countries should be committed to the Arab line.

Whereas the conditions of providing the resistance movement with finance and arms, were that they should be unified and continue fighting and be committed to the resolutions of confrontation, and train the Palestinians living in the Jamahiriyah. [sentence as received] At this point Mr. 'Arafat asked Colonel al-Qadhdhafi about the possibility of imposing military conscription on the Palestinians residing in the Jamahiriyah, and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi answered by saying "great."

After a short break, the General People's Congress resumed its session by discussing the fifth item on its agenda which is a memorandum on economic crimes.

The head of the drafting committee reviewed the recommendations of the basic people's congress on this issue and pointed out that that item had several opinions and different points of view with regard to the quality of penalties and their durations.

But all congresses recommended the institution of punishment for these crimes.

Then the congress went on to review the basic people's congresses recommendations and resolutions regarding the sixth item on their agenda concerning the condition of granting and withdrawing naturalization. The head of the drafting committee clarified that 183 congresses recommended granting the Libyan nationality to Libyan citizens only. Also the basic people congresses approved granting the Libyan nationality to those who stay permanently in the Jamahiriyah among Arabs married to Libyan women, and to sons and daughters of Libyan women married to non-Libyans, to Arab women married to Libyans, to foreign women married to Libyans, as well as to Arabs in general. The congresses also recommended the granting of Libyan nationality to scientists.

At exactly 1:15 this afternoon (Jamahiriyah local time) the morning session of the second day was adjourned to be resumed at 5 o'clock this evening. (Jamahiriyah local time)

18 December Session

LD181555Y Tripoli JANA in English 1419 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 10 Dec, JANA--The General People's Congress resumed its sessions this morning to continue the discussion of the transformation and administrative 1979 budgets. The secretary of the congress opened the session by introducing the president of the Producers' Union who then delivered a short speech. He made some observations about the transformation plan after the producers' revolution. He affirmed that the workers' seizure of factories and establishments had been extremely successful due to their consciousness and awareness of the responsibility as their status changed from wageworkers to partners. Thus they contributed to a decrease in the price of many products which were previously controlled by the employers and used to fix whichever price they wanted.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress noted that the people's congresses last year added a number of new projects to the five-year plan bringing their estimated cost to 26 thousand million Libyan dinars. This was appointed last year, [words indistinct] have been [word indistinct] the current year an estimated cost of 3.5 million Libyan dinars.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that when these projects were revised by the various secretariats, it was discovered that these projects were duplicated. He clarified that it was the right of the congresses' masses to demand the new projects they needed, but it must be borne in mind that such projects require a longer period of preparation since the execution of these projects was considered to be the final stage. He cites as an example a nuclear station pointing out that the preparation stage of such a project would require ten years.

The planning secretary then spoke and explained that when the projects, which people's congresses had decided to add to the plan were reviewed, it became clear that they were already incorporated within an active programme to be carried out in stages. For example, it is possible to distribute the projects which have not yet reached the execution stage according to the needs of the other congresses.

The planning secretary said that the five-year plan for example included the projects of 200 clinics, only 110 of which are currently under construction. This applies to the other sectors as well.

Staff Major 'Abd as-Salah Jallud then spoke, making observations about some plans presented by the people's congresses with the aim of increasing the production capacity. He demanded that they should be approved and referred to the authorities concerned.

He also called for the necessity to inform the public about the details of these projects. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great First of September Revolution and secretary-general of the General People's Congress, said: "We are neither inherently backward nor ignorant but it is colonialism that imposed backwardness and ignorance upon us. We are now endeavouring to get rid of this situation by involving the masses in deciding their destiny.

In the morning session, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called for the necessity to concentrate upon cultivating the land to ensure the people's minimum needs and to concentrate upon industry, saying that this philosophy was behind the increase of production capability, and the (?abolishment) of free trade and the employment of students.

He added that the people in the Jamahiriyah ruled themselves and shouldered their responsibility since the outbreak of the Great First of September Revolution and the establishment of people's power.

He also called for expanding medical and applied sciences faculties, and to concentrate on increased spending on agriculture and petro-chemical and oil industries and to stop selling Libyan crude oil abroad.

There was consensus amongst all the people's congresses for the need to concentrate primarily on the execution of the large production projects and proceeding with a correct order of priorities in the transformation plan.

The attendants who spoke in the morning session also affirmed the need for self-reliance and devoting all the capacities and energies to the ambitious plan, as well as for the execution of the production projects.

The people's vital needs, namely housing, hospitals, schools and farms should also be attended to.

The planning secretary clarified some issues related to the execution of the transformation plan. He referred to the figures he gave at yesterday's session about the expenditure.

He said that the rate of spending was not the main pointer to achievements, but that it was a general indicator.

He affirmed that the development plan's rate of achievement had exceeded the value of the sums spent on it.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said that the role of the congress now was to collect all resolutions and to compare between them and the resources to know what was redundant, and the possibility of implementing them, then referring all these resolutions to the drafting committee to draw it up in the final draft in cooperation with the general people's committee which knew the volume of capabilities and comparing them with the volume of expenditure.

The general secretary of the General People's Congress then announced the adjournment of the session at 12:45 p.m. to be reconvened at 5:00 p.m. today.

18 Dec Evening Session

LD190132Y Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The General People's Congress resumed its meetings at 5:15 this evening (Jamahiriyah local time) to continue discussions of the items on the agenda. At the beginning of the session, the secretary-general of the General People's Congress asked the head of the drafting committee to read the final text of the resolutions and recommendations of the people's congresses with regard to the transformation budget of the year 1979. Then the head of drafting committee started reading these resolutions and recommended actions, especially those related to adding new projects to the plan, and the report approving the budget, taking into consideration the following basic factors: considering the available financial resources and the implementation ability and new projects drawn up in the plan and approved by the congresses in their final form for the year 1977.

The congresses also recommended that with regard to the new projects, consideration should be given to the implementation of productive projects after making sure of their economic and technical feasibility, and also the projects of basic necessary services.

Then the congress discussed the item relating to the agricultural coastal strip. In this respect, the head of the drafting committee clarified that 170 congresses approved unanimously the presented memorandum. But certain congresses made several remarks on this item.

The secretary general of the General People's Congress discussed these remarks with the secretaries of the said congresses.

The session was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to perform evening prayers.

JANA REPORTS ROMANIA TO SUPPLY FUEL TO IRAN

LD191112Y Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] London, Dec 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Romania will supply Iran with 35,000 tons of fuel to help compensate losses of oil production resulting from the strike of Iranian oil-workers during the continuous popular uprising in Iran against the puppet shah.

Romania is trying at present to find a tanker to ship the consignment as quickly as possible from Constanta port to Bandar 'Abbas port in an attempt to save the regime of the despot shah, and in sympathy with him.

MOROCCO

MOROCCO REDEPLOYS TROOPS IN MAURITANIA

PA181817Y Paris AFP in French 1514 GMT 18 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 18 Dec (AFP)--It was learned in the Mauritanian capital from a reliable source on Monday that some 600 Moroccan troops stationed in Akjoujt (a city of 6,000 inhabitants), located 250 km northeast of Nouakchott, definitely left the area on 14 December for dedeployment around the mining city of Zouerate.

The withdrawal of the Moroccan forces from Akjoujt had been decided upon shortly after the overthrow of President Moktar Ould Daddah on 10 July, during a meeting of the high-level Moroccan-Mauritanian committee in Nouakchott. The troops had been deployed originally at the request of the former government in January, 1978.

Observers note that approximately 8,000 Moroccan Army troops are still located in the main cities and towns of central and northern Mauritania. Nouadhibou, Atar, Teichchatt [on the Nouadhibou-Zouerate railroad], Dahla, Zouerate, Bir Moghcein and Ain Ben Tili.

However, it has been stated in Nouakchott that several hundred Moroccan soldiers will soon be evacuated--initially from Nouadhibou and Zouerate--to return to Morocco.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI DEFENDS CAMP DAVID, TALKS ABOUT VISIT TO TANZANIA, UGANDA

LD160112Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Dec 78 LD

[Monthly address to the nation by Sudanese President Numayri on 11 December in the program "Between the People and the Leader"--live]

[Excerpts] Brothers, we ask for peace for ourselves and for others, while remaining prepared to confront any enemy. From a position of strength and determination and with all courage, we also stood by the Camp David initiative, inasmuch as it constituted a beginning or step toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Here I want to say something in general: Why do we stand by the Camp David peace initiative? Any realistic, constructive and positive analysis of the Camp David accords aimed at advancing the cause of peace in the Middle East must begin with a series of scientific questions:

1. If we consider the wars waged by the Arabs, realize that the losses incurred by those wars exceeded their gains, and understand the changes affecting world policy, is there an alternative to peace talks as opposed to war to fulfill the goals of the Arab world?

2. If the reply is positive, can the Arabs achieve a peace treaty on bases to be defined in advance and which, within their framework, allow for concessions to be made, or is there a more practical and realistic method to clarify Arab aims which can be fulfilled? That is, provided there is scope for movement and flexibility and a subsequent examination of what the discussions could result in--in the sense of reconsidering the results that have been achieved in the light of the specified aims. [sentence as heard]

3. Is a strict commitment to the combined Arab aims and determination to fulfill them all at once the ideal way to achieve peace, or would it be more useful to make it possible for some of them to be dealt with by means of initiatives and efforts which could change in form, content and timing, and then finally aim at achieving maximum possible results?

4. The fact that the Arab position has deteriorated progressively since 1948 has resulted in an escalation of Arab demands, so that they have shifted from demands for the restoration of Palestine in its entirety and the total dissolution of the Zionist State of Israel to the recovery of the territories occupied since the defeat of 1967 and conceding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to their land and to establishing their state. In view of all this, would it be better to wait until all these demands are met in one fell swoop--which might happen in a long time or not at all--or could the Arab parties directly affected agree on achieving a minimum of their aims now as a first step toward achieving their desired goals?

5. Is it in the interests of those who believe in the fulfillment of distant aims to block those with less distant but more feasible aims? Does doing so not constitute a renunciation [presumably of more immediate aims] or at least an introduction of complications which could lead to disagreement on strategy already agreed upon by the parties concerned?

6. In the light of these questions, I shall endeavor to analyze the Camp David accords and the reactions to them, particularly those of the Arab world. Finally, I shall deal with Sudan's imperative and expected role--its local, regional and international role of establishing peace and settling differences by peaceful means. It is a role for which Sudan has come to be known in the outside world during the course of my leadership. It is the role which the peace-loving and friendly states are very keen to see continued by a strong and effectively cohesive Sudan [words indistinct]. Why is Camp David regarded as a step toward establishing peace in the Middle East? It is imperative to stress that a peace treaty is a better option than war in the present Arab circumstances. It must also be taken into consideration that a long conflict, such as the Israeli-Arab conflict, must be followed by concessions from both sides for the achievement of peace.

It cannot be said that what was achieved at Camp David is in line with all the Arab wishes and aims, in that it is inevitable that both the Arab and Israeli sides must renounce some of their demands so that an element of mutual consent and acceptance is achieved in any agreement.

It was on such an understanding that UN Security Council Resolution No 242 was adopted. Its first paragraph defined the elements of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Despite what was laid down in Resolution 242, practical difficulties--first in interpreting it, and secondly in implementing it--have emerged. Constructive action is needed to make the resolution a viable reality. And this is the very thing that Camp David sought to achieve. The meeting began on the following basis: Resolution 242 has not been fulfilled or has not been implemented because there were certain differences about its interpretation. Camp David is, in effect, an extension of this resolution, which was approved by all the states; It was an extension of this resolution and its interpretation or finding an outlet for its implementation.

At Camp David the points of departure for drawing up the accords were as follows: All complicated issues cannot be settled at one time and, with a realistic outlook, 5 years was fixed as a transitional period for adoption of the required resolutions (?in accorance with) a logical arrangement. In other words, the Camp David [word indistinct] is regarded as a step in a process expected to continue and through which lasting mutual confidence and a comprehensive peace will be achieved.

The Camp David accords are a new method or course that differs from the old method, which proved a failure. It proved a failure in achieving tangible results. It is therefore wrong to analyze Camp David in the light of the Arab strategy in its old form, because that means judging it by standards other than those laid down by the accords themselves. However, when we look at the aims that must be fulfilled in realizing the peace process, we find that the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the establishment of a Palestinian entity in the West Bank and Gaza and the arrangements concerning the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories are important steps in the right direction.

Nevertheless, many naturally seek to accomplish the greater aim--namely, a full and lasting peace in the region.

There is some ambiguity over the future of the West Bank and Gaza, particularly over establishment of the Palestinian state, the issue of the Palestinians outside the West Bank and in Gaza, Jerusalem, and the arrangement for withdrawal from the Golan Heights. All these need clarification. However, the peace process is a continuous series of negotiations that will guarantee prospects of improvement and clarity of vision.

A fact worthy of consideration is that the fixing of a framework for a comprehensive settlement means that Egypt wants a peace that embraces all Israel's neighbors who are prepared to negotiate. It does not want a separate peace agreement that does not take the Arab cause into account. It requires that Israel recognize for the first time that withdrawal, in accordance with Resolution 242, applies to Sinai, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and to Golan. Apart from the positive aspects highlighted by Camp David, we find no other practical alternatives that can be adopted. The Arab stand--the outlines of which were defined in the resolutions of the Rabat and Algiers summit conferences--does not provide the requisite flexible basis for these negotiations, in that Arab strategy is founded on an equation whose basis is the immediate achievement of everything.

Camp David can, then, be viewed as a step for (?eclipsing) hardened stands which proved useless in giving an impetus to the Arab cause and which, indeed, led to deterioration of the Arab stand.

The Arab appraisal of the Camp David accords is based on the strategy approved at the Algiers and Rabat summit conferences: It aimed at achieving a complete withdrawal from the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and the Palestinian peoples' reattainment of their full rights, including their right to establish an independent Palestinian state, on the condition that all these rights are fulfilled simultaneously through collective action. The adoption of any partial solution was ruled out. And even this stand is, in itself, regarded as one of the stages of the struggle which will finally lead to liberation of Palestine from the grip of Zionist Israel.

Perhaps the adoption of this criterion accounts for the Arabs' rejection of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem and the Camp David accords, to the extent that positive aspects of the accords were overlooked.

I take the following examples from some studies that were presented to me. They reflect the Arab stand and confirm what I have already said:

1. On the basis of the studies, and despite the fact that Arab strategy was founded on fulfilling all aims as a step toward peace with Israel, there is no provision in the Camp David accords that compels Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories. The complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sinai, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was regarded as rejected, because a complete withdrawal is not effected as specified by the Algiers and Rabat resolutions.

2. The studies also say that the accords referred to the Palestinians as refugees who were deported from their land, and not as possessors of a right. It is correct that the accord did not adequately refer to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to set up their state. However, there are references in the accords to fundamental steps leading to fulfillment of this aim. With regard to the arrangements concerning the West Bank and Gaza, there is a provision for Egypt, Israel, Jordan and representatives of the Palestinian people to hold negotiations to solve the Palestinian question in all its aspects. Moreover, it has been stipulated that the talks should deal with the final position of the West Bank and Gaza on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242, and that any solution arising from the talks should consider the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just needs. Also, the Palestinians either inside the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or outside those areas can join Egypt's and Jordan's delegations in the talks.

3. Instead of hailing the momentous gain achieved through Israel's acceptance of Resolution 242 and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people--which is a shift not evidenced previously--the studies criticized the dropping of the PLO as the lawful representative of the Palestinian people. These studies (?ignored) the fact that the accords were based on excluding the organization from the peace talks, since it would not be sensible for Israel to recognize an organization whose constitution dictates the need for Israel's extermination.

4. The studies also pointed out that the question of self-government does not comply with the wishes and aims of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland and establish their own entity. This might be valid if it is meant that the accords do not satisfy all Palestinians simultaneously, as laid down in Arab strategy.

As I pointed out before, the arrangements concerning the West Bank and the Gaza Strip do not stop at self-government, but lead eventually to a sovereign Palestinian entity.

5. The studies reflected a legal argument to the effect that Egypt has no right to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians over the West Bank and Gaza and that the framework of the Egyptian-Israeli accord cannot be regarded as an accord binding Arab states that were not a party to the negotiations.

All this is valid from the legal standpoint. However, it must not be forgotten that the Camp David accords are not a legal instrument binding on all parties concerned. Rather, they are a framework for continuing negotiations on all the complex issues connected with the Middle East problem and dealing with them one by one. They do not constitute a peace accord. Rather, they are a framework for continuing negotiations on all the complex issues connected with the Middle East problem and dealing with them one by one. They do not constitute a peace accord. Rather, they are the basis for agreement on a possible form of a peace accord.

6. The studies also point out that Egypt is legally bound--according to the Arab League's Charter--by the Algiers and Rabat resolutions. Consequently, any measures outside the strategy laid down at the two summit conferences are regarded as a violation of the Arab League's Charter. This harsh judgement takes its dimensions, as is clear from the literal adherence to the resolutions of these two conferences by which the accords were appraised, by virtue of their relative proximity to the Arab strategic aim and whether they will fulfill all these aims simultaneously.

This type of view lacks the imagination and creativity necessary to achieve progress toward solving the issue.

In short, we can say that the Camp David accords have both good and bad points. As is to be expected in such situations, the inevitable and expected conflict between the two camps, East and West, will decide support or rejection for the Camp David agreements. The Eastern camp led by Russia severely criticizes these agreements and calls for support of its Arab allies such as Syria, Algeria, Libya, Iraq and the PLO.

The Western side and China support the Camp David agreements [word indistinct] its results. This conflict between the two camps will define their different stands according to their interests, which are (?affected) by the Middle East situation, whether it is war or peace upon which they base their strategies. If peace is the guarantee for Arab security, then the Arabs must be on guard against those who benefit from continuation of war and hostility.

Recent events in Africa reflect the Soviet strategy, which is interested in continuation of conflicts and hostilities on the continent. Here again I will make an important point: That is, that the war between the Arabs and Israel has become an international war about an international cause.

Neither the Arabs nor the Israelis can declare war or stop war as they wish. But even if they declare war or start a war, it will be stopped by the big powers within 3 days.

Then there is no [word indistinct] in any circumstance firm (?decision) as long as Russia and America are there. In view of this situation we have to think differently, in a different way: The way of peace, a just peace.

As I have said, as long as there is a Soviet interest in the Middle East, the Soviet Union will reject negotiations for purely ideological reasons because the initiative, in the Soviet view, was Western, and they, the USSR, were kept out with the object of completely removing Soviet influence from the region and weakening the USSR militarily, thus forcing the states in the region to seek military support from the Western camp.

On the other side, we see that the United States is determined to seize the opportunity of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem to enhance the chances for peace in the Middle East. The U.S. effort can be attributed to a number of important factors: After the war in Vietnam, America decided against military involvement in foreign countries and (?decided) to find other means of (?minimizing) the increasing Soviet influence. [sentence indistinct]

Some studies also indicate that progress toward peace within the framework of Camp David will help to curb Soviet influence. Camp David is also considered a success for the Carter administration, as are its efforts for human rights all over the world and its efforts to solve conflicts by peaceful means.

Brothers, free revolutionary compatriots, finally, I would like to give you a brief summary of the visit I paid to a number of east African states and Zambia.

In my capacity as chairman of the current OAU session, I paid a working visit to Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Burundi from 5-10 December 1978.

In Uganda and Tanzania I heard the views of officials on the conflict between the two countries, including details of the war operations and the incidents that led to the deteriorating Tanzanian-Ugandan relations.

As each side was sticking to its arguments on the conflict which broke out between the two countries, I found it was necessary to put an immediate end to the fighting between Uganda and Tanzania and to reduce the tension in the area, so as to work toward a comprehensive settlement of problems existing between Kampala and Dar es Salaam. Accordingly, I asked the two sides to abide by the principles of the OAU Charter regarding relations of neighborliness, noninterference in the affairs of member-states of the organization, and respect for the sovereignty of member-states. I asked the two sides to end the fighting, withdraw to their international borders, and to stop the propaganda campaigns against each other.

Despite the critical relations between the two countries, positive steps have been taken to reduce tension following my request. The two countries' forces were withdrawn to recognized international borders. President Idi Amin ordered a halt to the propaganda campaign against Tanzania.

In my capacity as chairman of the current OAU session, I undertook to inform all member-states of the reality of the situation and to appeal to them for cooperation, within the scope of the role that the OAU can play, to reach a peaceful settlement and put an end to the dispute. In particular, I intend to appeal to all member-states and nonmember-states of the organization to avoid taking any measure that might lead to a provocation of disturbances or an escalation of the conflict, or that might lead to foreign interference or threaten security, peace and progress, not only of the organization concerned, but of the entire continent.

BEGIN ADDRESS TO LIKUD KNESSET MEMBERS REPORTED

TA181801Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Over again to the Knesset. A meeting of all coalition members is now taking place and they are hearing a political review by Prime Minister Menahem Begin in anticipation of the political debate in the Knesset tomorrow. We are switching over to our parliamentary correspondent Razi Barqa'i:

The prime minister is reviewing for all who are present--cabinet members, Knesset members from all coalition factions as well as newsmen--the negotiating process so far and the reasons for the interruptions in the process. The Egyptians, the prime minister says, submitted a number of proposals and we can under no circumstances accept them. [begin recording]

[Begin] Part of the proposals deviate from the Camp David agreement framework and we believe that it must not be deviated from. A part is included in the Camp David agreement framework and we have no reason to include them. A part completely cancels the chief meaning of the central clause that guarantees that the peace treaty indeed be a peace treaty. Since the matters are of decisive importance, we decided to reject those documents even if the United States supports them to this very day.

I want to say to our friends that we all must be prepared to reject Egyptian proposals that are liable to endanger the peace of our people, even if they are supported by the United States. As for the United States, it is true that today the administration is supporting the Egyptian proposals, but there is an awakening in the public opinion. Not only the Jews are saying that the U.S. position is one-sided, there are also articles in important newspapers which say that there is no reason to blame Israel for causing the postponement of the signing of the peace treaty. The truth is to the contrary, as we said at the time, we were ready to sign the peace treaty without lists of those interpretations, without deviations from the Camp David agreements, and the responsibility for not signing the peace treaty, we believe, rests on Egypt. [end recording]

This, then, is an excerpt from the prime minister's statement, words that are being said at this very moment at the Knesset building. A discussion is also going to start soon. Members will ask questions, and Mr Begin will answer them. In the course of the Morning Newsreel tomorrow we shall certainly have a summary of the discussion; now, back to the studio.

Asks Coalition Unity

TA190810Y Jerusalem POST in English 19 Dec 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin last night called on the coalition members to close ranks and hold their ground until the present crisis in the peace talks is overcome.

Briefing the coalition in advance of today's government statement and Knesset political debate, scheduled for 3 p.m., Begin said: "We do not want to leave anybody with the impression that we are negotiating a provisional peace plan in which we would agree to see changes later on."

He said: "Israel has no intention of launching an attack on any Arab state. The problem is whether Egypt's military commitments are binding if Israel is attacked. The argument is over the significance of the term 'victim'. This is the issue in clause six of the draft treaty."

The premier declared that no precedents existed for a built-in review of arrangements set out in peace treaties or for peace agreements limited in time.

He stressed that at Camp David, Israel had never agreed to allow Egyptian liaison officers in the Gaza Strip and had never agreed to separate the future of Judaea and Samaria from the future of the Gaza Strip.

The main reason why Israel could never set a date for elections to the autonomy council, Begin said, was because so many factors were outside of the control of Israel and Egypt alike. "There are neither potential candidates nor potential electors. They are all intimidated," he said.

Begin declared that "we shall not accept Egyptian demands that endanger the security of our people merely because they are supported by the U.S."

He said Israel was engaged in a struggle with the U.S. administration and that he believed the Jewish and non-Jewish public there was awakening to Israel's case.

In the debate that followed Begin got firm support for the cabinet's rejection of the Egyptian proposals, and the consensus appeared to be far tougher than the premier's own position.

LIKUD LEADERSHIP SUSPENDS SHAMIR, KOHEN

TA181246Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] This morning the Likud faction's leadership made a decision unprecedented in severity: it is suspending MK's Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir from taking part in factional debates in the Knesset assembly. Moshe Shamir has had his right to speak suspended for 2 months and Ge'ula Kohen has had her right to speak suspended for a month because of the way they voted in the Knesset last week on the draft proposal on the law of national service for religious girls. Violating the coalition's position, Ge'ula Kohen abstained from voting and Moshe Shamir voted against the draft proposal.

Shamir told our correspondent Razi Barqa'i that the decision did not surprise him and that it was yet another stage in the degeneration of the Likud. He repeated, if the Likud approved the peace agreement with Egypt in its present format, he, Moshe Shamir, would leave the party.

The chairman of the Likud Knesset faction, Avraham Sharir, said that the faction had behaved with great tolerance toward its two members, but last week they had gone too far, and so there had been no alternative other than to punish them severely. However, he said that the members of the Likud leadership had no intention of causing the resignation of those two Knesset members from the faction.

BEGIN DISCUSSES TREATY WITH KNESSET COMMITTEE

TA181335Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that Israel will insist on its rights and will not change its position, I.E., to reject Egypt's demands and the changes the United States proposed making in the peace treaty. The prime minister was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. He reported that a few weeks ago Cyrus Vance had told him that under no circumstances should the draft peace treaty be changed, accordingly, it was surprising that Vance himself returned to Jerusalem last week from Cairo bringing proposals for such changes.

Our correspondent Zevi Lidar says that the members of the committee expressed anger at the U.S. position. Me'ir Talmi--MAPAM--said that the nation should be taught to take an independent position and we must not accept the U.S. dictate. Yehuda Ben-Me'ir--MAFDAL--said that we must recognize that U.S. policy is hostile to Israel, since Brzezinski thinks that Washington has an interest in the Arab countries, particularly in Saudi Arabia. Ben-Me'ir expects that the United States will recognize the PLO and will cancel its commitment to Israel on that matter contained in the interim agreement of 1975. This is how the Americans behaved in regard to Taiwan when they canceled written agreements with it. Pesah Grupper-Likud--proposed cancelling all the preparations made in Sinai for the withdrawal and increasing oil production.

REACTION TO VANCE 'MEET THE PRESS' INTERVIEW

TA181137Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Dec 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi]

[Excerpts] Israel will not accept such an ultimatum-like condition as that presented yesterday by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance when he said that the United States would only be prepared to continue mediating if Israel adopts the proposals he had brought with him from Cairo.

This was said this morning by a reliable source in Israel who was reacting to the statement Vance made yesterday during his interview on the U.S. television program "Meet the Press."

The source emphasized that such a U.S. approach could never be accepted by Israel.

Jerusalem regards Cyrus Vance's remarks in the television interview as yet another stage in the polarization of the U.S. position toward Israel, constituting an almost total backing of Egypt in its latest demands. The only thing that Cyrus Vance had seen appropriate to say in favor of Israel was that he had found a willingness in Jerusalem to rediscuss the letter dealing with the issue of implementing the autonomy.

Foreign Minister Dayan said at the cabinet session yesterday that his ministry was now organizing a widescale publicity campaign in the United States and in other countries to clarify Israel's stance in the peace negotiations and to neutralize the U.S. attack on Israel. He claimed that many personalities from various parties have been recruited toward this end.

Dayan himself is to leave the country in 2 days for Brussels to participate in the meeting of EEC foreign ministers. During his stay in Belgium, he will hold a news conference and will be interviewed by the television networks. He will take these opportunities to clarify the latest developments in the peace negotiations from Israel's viewpoint.

Today, Prime Minister Menahem Begin will appear at a gathering of Knesset members from the coalition factions to explain Israel's policy. This appearance will be made in regard to the Knesset political debate to take place tomorrow.

BEGIN TURNED DOWN VANCE REQUEST FOR DAYAN TO GO TO CAIRO

TA181210Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Danni Rubinstein]

[Excerpts] After his talks in Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance wanted to take a senior Israeli representative with him to Cairo to continue the negotiations, but Prime Minister Menahem Begin refused. The candidate for this trip was Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

As a last minute step to prevent a crisis, Vance wanted an Israeli representative to go with him to Cairo where they would try to overcome the difficulties in the negotiations. The candidates for this mission were Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Israel's Ambassador in Washington Simcha Dinitz. Prime Minister Begin refused to respond to Vance's request. Nor did he comply with the appeal of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who supported this proposal and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's candidacy.

Vance's last conversation with Begin and the ministers was especially poignant and was cut short, giving Vance 2 free hours which he used for a tour of the West Bank.

MA'ARIV REPORTS ON 17 DEC CABINET MEETING

TA181130Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Dec pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] Israel is furious over the scheming behind its back by the United States and Egypt regarding the draft peace treaty which was revealed during U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's visit to Jerusalem.

In light of those revelations, as well as other information, which is occasionally uncovered and which confirms the total U.S. identification with the Egyptian positions, it has been decided in Jerusalem to scrupulously reexamine everything that pertains to the formulation of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Hence the firm position the cabinet has now taken with respect to the peace talks.

It has been learned that while trying to persuade Egypt to leave Article VI (which makes the peace treaty independent and gives it priority over all other treaties to which Egypt is a party) as it is, the United States agreed to provide Egypt with a legal assessment, compiled by State Department Legal Adviser Herbert Hansell, which states that the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty does not harm other Egyptian commitments resulting from other treaties to which Egypt is a party.

Israel reacted promptly to the U.S. secretary of state, but the latter did not utter any words of apology. In fact, the United States ignored Israel's complaint which noted that this thing (on such a vital issue for Israel) was done behind its back and was revealed only now--after it was done.

It has been learned from various sources that the U.S. legal assessment, which negates Article VI, came only after Egyptian pressure was exerted on the United States by Vice President Mubarak and Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil during their visits to Washington.

A senior Israeli source told the MA'ARIV correspondents: "It transpires that the Americans (Cyrus Vance and members of his entourage) did not come clean, but now they are angry with Israel for not being prepared to make 'concessions'...."

The same source pointed out that the U.S. legal assessment, which would not be able to withstand any objective legal test (according to Israeli international law experts), states in general that the agreements to which Egypt is a party would not be harmed by the Israeli-Egyptian treaty. Thus, according to his assessment even the agreement which Egypt signed and which refers to the goal of liberating Palestine--the unification convention signed between Syria, Egypt and Iraq on 16 April 1963--has priority, or, at least, does not harm the agreement with Israel.

At yesterday's cabinet session, one minister said that "new details on the contents of the contacts with the United States are being revealed each day" and that it was therefore important that the cabinet hold a thorough discussion on everything related to the continuation of the negotiations before the talks between Israel and Egypt--with U.S. mediation--are resumed.

It was Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon who maintained that it was preferable that the cabinet consolidate a clear-cut stance which will be binding on all those who negotiate on its behalf, so that what had happened in the past--when remarks made by cabinet members "privately" or in a noncommittal manner, or before things were worked out in the cabinet, were later used to cast accusations against Israel (as we witnessed last week, including from President Carter)--does not recur.

This remark by the agriculture minister evoked reservations on the part of Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who regarded Sharon's words as criticism on the way the negotiations had been conducted by he and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. The foreign minister himself did not react.

At the beginning of the session--before the agriculture minister made his proposal that the cabinet discuss the nature of the autonomy--Dayan asked that any discussion which would exceed the statement issued with the unanimous approval of all cabinet members, not be held. It was clear to all that the reference was to a proposal Sharon intended to make for the discussion of the autonomy issue, as a continuation of things he had sounded during the cabinet's Friday session.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin joined the foreign minister in maintaining that this was not the right time to hold such a debate, but the agriculture minister was insistent. Begin said that he had only received Sharon's request to raise this subject for discussion today (yesterday) and that was why he could not immediately submit it for discussion.

Minister Sharon said that he had raised the proposal 3 days ago. The prime minister said that he was using his authority and passing the proposal for discussion at the cabinet's session next Sunday. As for Minister Sharon's substantive arguments that it was strange that the cabinet had not held a debate on such a "critical" issue, the prime minister said that this was not exactly true, as the cabinet was dealing with the issue, and that was why the committee headed by the director of the prime minister's office--Dr Eliyahu Ben-Elissar--was appointed. The prime minister added that he occasionally reviewed the papers prepared by this committee and that he could testify that it was doing "serious work."

Meanwhile, Jerusalem has noticed signals from Egypt reflecting a desire to renew the talks. From recent contacts between Israel and Washington, nothing concrete was reported regarding the procedure and the date for the talks between Israel and Egypt to be resumed. The prime minister has postponed his political address to the Knesset until tomorrow, pending the consultations and discussions he is to hold with the coalition factions today.

DAYAN DISCUSSES EGYPTIAN DEMANDS, U.S. POSITION

TA181240Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said today that Israel had no intention of discussing with the Egyptians the new demands they have presented via the United States. Regarding the demands, Dayan said that there was nothing to discuss and nothing to sign. Dayan made these remarks at a briefing for directors of departments in his ministry.

He added that the changes the Egyptians wanted to make via an accompanying letter and a U.S. legal opinion on two paragraphs in Article VI divest the treaty of its meaning. He also said that the Egyptians were not only demanding the delay of the exchange of ambassadors between the countries, but were making the exchange of ambassadors dependent on the establishment of the autonomy. These were new demands which were not in the peace treaty Israel agreed to sign last month.

Dayan also said that the U.S. representation of the Government of Israel's decision was a distortion and had no foundation. Israel agreed to sign an agreement, which was the fruit of prolonged negotiations, in a compromise formulation worked out mainly by the Americans. It was the Americans who had pleaded with the parties not to open or touch the formulated treaty, and Israel had decided to sign it with its appendices. President Carter and Secretary of State Vance praised this decision by Israel, Dayan said, and now there are new demands. The accompanying letter on the matter of the negotiations over the autonomy was not an integral part of the treaty, but we were prepared to hold negotiations on that letter. But as we have stated, Dayan said, we were not prepared to hold negotiations on the new clauses put forward by Egypt.

On the matter of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, Dayan noted that it should be made clear to the Americans that Israel had no intention of leaving the area as a result of the establishment of the autonomy. The settlements now in existence there were established there as permanent settlements and the existing settlements should be provided with orderly allocations of water and means of production for permanent building as well as with more manpower.

DAYAN SAYS ISRAEL PREPARED TO REOPEN NEGOTIATIONS

TA181259Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] We begin today with the statement by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who said that Israel is prepared to reopen negotiations with Egypt on the conclusion of a peace treaty provided that Egypt drops the demands made by Cairo last week. Dayan was addressing senior members of the Foreign Ministry staff in Jerusalem this morning. With me in the studio with more details is 'Abi Hezqel:

The foreign minister stressed that the resumption of negotiations must be based on a clear understanding by Egypt that the proposals conveyed to Jerusalem by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance are not acceptable to Israel. This would appear to deepen the differences between Jerusalem and Washington since Vance, on his return to the U.S. capital, expressed the belief that the talks should continue on the basis of the four Egyptian demands he had brought to Israel. It will be recalled that these were turned down by the Israeli Cabinet on Friday, although Israel did say then that it was willing to reopen negotiations on the question of the autonomy proposal. The Egyptian ideas conveyed to Israel by Vance, and which the United States now backs, concern the setting of December 1979 as a target date for autonomy elections, the postponing of the exchange of ambassadors until self-government is effected at least in Gaza, the reviewing of security arrangements in Sinai after 5 years and the backing away from the treaty provisions that give this treaty precedence over Egyptian treaty commitments with Arab states against Israel.

Today, Dayan accused the State Department of contributing to the problem with a legal ruling supporting Egypt in its attempt to water down this commitment to Israel. Dayan is quoted as having said that it appears that the U.S. administration thinks this is the maximum we can expect from President as-Sadat, but that if this were so, there was hardly a basis for renewing the talks.

The foreign minister explained that the hardening of the Egyptian attitude was probably due to threats and warnings made by Jordan and Saudi Arabia at the Baghdad conference of Arab states. They told As-Sadat that Arab unity comes first, whether peace is desirable or not, Dayan is quoted as saying. He also said that it was the Americans who had urged the sides not to seek to amend the draft treaty they--the Americans--had drawn up. When Israel decided to go along with this, both President Carter and Vance had praised Israel for its stand.

On the question of Jewish settlement in Judaea and Samaria, Dayan is quoted as saying that it should be made clear to Washington that Israel has no intention of withdrawing from the area. The settlements already there are there to stay, he said, and they should be given support and assistance.

MOSHE ARENS, SHIM'ON PERES DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS

TA181400Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 18 Dec 78 TA

[Text] And now to tomorrow's Knesset session, when the parliament will hold a full-scale political debate on the breakdown in the peace negotiations with Egypt. And this morning, Prime Minister Menahem Begin briefed the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the current situation. Afterward, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami heard the views of Committee Chairman Moshe Arens and leader of the opposition, Shim'on Peres. First, Arens. Could he guess when higher-leval negotiations might begin? [begin recording]

[Answer] No, I would not want to guess, and I think that one of the mistakes that has been made during the past 3 months is that we tried to squeeze everything into a time-frame and have tried to establish a date by which the negotiations have to be consumed [as heard]. This arouses expectations that cannot always be fulfilled. In the wake of the expectations, we get frustrations and people losing their patience. I think it is best not to sign any dates of time-frames and simply to continue patiently the effort toward trying to reach an agreement.

[Question] How do you feel about U.S. mediation in future negotiations between Egypt and Israel?

[Answer] Well, I do not feel very good about it and I do not think it is good for the peace process and I do not think it is good for the interests of the United States because, obviously--and those who were not aware of it until recently, I think, have become aware of it now--the United States feels itself under very considerable obligation to the Arab world. I guess, primarily, Saudi Arabia and, via Saudi Arabia, Egypt. And this means that almost inevitably, when differences of opinion arise between Israel and Egypt in the negotiations, and they are inevitable because, after all, we have differences of interest and differences of views, then sooner or later the United States administration comes down and, I would say, comes down very heavy-handedly on the side of the Egyptians. That is not conducive to tne peace process.

[Question] How do you see the various points at issue between Egypt, Israel and the United States being resolved? Do you see any clear-cut way of resolving them?

[Answer] Well, the basic point at issue today is, as I am sure everybody realizes who has looked at the specific paragraphs No V, No VI and so forth that are at issue, the problem of linkage. We hope that Egypt's position on this point is not ultimative, that they are simply trying to strike the best bargain possible, to some extent in the light of the support that they enjoy from the United States and I anticipate that they will enjoy.

I hope that when we resume negotiations and when our position is made crystal clear to them, as I think it has to be, that they will relax on this issue. If what they are looking for is an agreement with us that, on the one hand, gets us to agree to withdrawing from all of the Sinai and, at the same time, leaves us wide open to--leaves the agreement wide open to--Egyptian violation, unless we withdraw to the 1967 borders in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip and give up East Jerusalem, we know that this is the basic Egyptian conception, then, of course, this is an agreement that Israel cannot sign. [end recording]

And some of the same questions being answered by Shim'on Peres: [begin recording]

[Answer] My own estimation is that they will be resumed and it will rather happen, it will happen rather soon. I would say in a matter of weeks. I think we went a very long way and there is no sense to go back.

[Question] Who do you think should make the next step in resuming the negotiations, or how, physically, practically, do you see the negotiations getting underway again?

[Answer] Well, there are six different items and I think we have to go over each of them, even if it will take more weeks to do.

[Question] Do you think American mediation should be continued, or would you rather see, at this stage, direct negotiations between Israel and Egypt without the Americans?

[Answer] I am afraid it is impractical now to deal otherwise but to continue through the Americans. Maybe there was a time when we could have negotiated straight with the Egyptians. Maybe it would be better for all parties concerned, but as things stand today, I do not imagine, for example, that Egypt will give up the American mediation once the Americans are supporting their position. [end recording]

MA'ARIV DEPLORES AMATEURISHNESS OF NEGOTIATING TEAM

TA181724Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Dec 78 p 5 TA

[By Shemu'el Segev]

[Excerpt] Even last week, when it was clear that Israel was marching toward an inevitable confrontation with the United States, one of the most senior members of the peace talks was heard saying in public: "The cabinet must be replaced, it is allowing peace to slip through its fingers..." while another senior official, who also participated in the talks with Cyrus Vance, mentioned several uncomplimentary traits of the leading trio: Begin-Dayan-Weizman. He claimed that since Dayan was not accustomed to accepting responsibility even when he throws an idea out into the open, he never fights for it for fear that he might have to go back to his "slippers" in Zahala. The result is that that same idea is later used by the United States to further shatter the prime minister's authority.

However, the personal failure of the "leading team" is not as serious as the failure of the method adopted. Throughout the political negotiations Israeli amateurism stood out against the professionalism on the U.S. and Egyptian sides. This contrast of amateurism versus professionalism could also be clearly seen during Cyrus Vance's visit to Jerusalem last week. The U.S. secretary of state came to Israel with his top Middle East experts: Harold Saunders and Dr William Quandt from the senior White House staff and Michael Sterner, the head of the Egyptian desk in the Department of State. [paragraph continues]

During the talks in Cairo Vance was also accompanied by roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton, who is considered an expert on Israeli affairs and who--if not recalled to Washington due to the sudden death of his mother--also would have come to Jerusalem. The State Department's legal adviser was also among the members of the U.S. team, but his weight was overshadowed by the weight of the other "professionals."

Israel, on the other hand, appeared at the talks with the U.S. secretary of state with not even one expert on Egyptian or Middle Eastern affairs. The only experts added to the talks were the legal advisers.

I asked one of the senior officials in the Foreign Ministry about the whereabouts of the Israeli Middle Eastern specialists in the Israeli delegation, and his reply was Dayan is the expert and he has a strong sense regarding what is currently taking place in Egypt...."

Hearing this answer, one could only laugh or cry--depending on the listener. What is ridiculous about this answer is that none of the foreign minister's advisers dared tell Moshe Dayan that, with all due respect, he could not be considered an expert on Egyptian affairs and that as for his feelings, we had seen how these operated on the eve of the Yom Kippur War.

Precisely at this moment, when we are at the height of such a strong clash with the United States, perhaps the time has come for the government to improve the composition of its delegation to the peace talks. Even if all agree that there is no possibility of "changing the horses" on the way uphill, there at least is the possibility of adding several political specialists to the leading team who would add some speck of professionalism to it and perhaps even weaken the amateur image attached to the Begin cabinet since it was established.

DAVAR COMMENTATOR ANALYZES LIKUD CABINET'S MISTAKES

TA181119Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Dec 78 pp 7, 11 TA

[By Dani'el Bloch]

[Text] The rejoicing of those who are opposed to peace over the crisis that took place at the end of last week was undoubtedly premature. The statement made by Egypt's Acting Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali to the effect that the negotiations were neither stopped nor suspended--if it should turn out to reflect the official Egyptian stand--certainly leaves a definite opening for continuing the discussions. In any event, it must be recalled that there is no way to go back on issues to which Israel has already committed itself: evacuating all of Sinai and the settlements and readiness to negotiate on the future of Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, with one possibility in these negotiations being the return of these areas--wholly or in part--to Arab sovereignty. The option of retaining a part of Sinai in our hands, or of one entire land under full Israeli sovereignty, no longer exists. The Israel Cabinet, under the Likud leadership, has already surrendered that.

There is no doubt that the anti-Israel statements made by the United States at the end of last week both in public, and authoritatively, as well as under the ostensible cover of anonimity relating to a senior official, were extremely sharp and perhaps even unprecedented. At the same time, we must not give in to the nostalgia and romanticism that belong to the past, for Israel-U.S. relations have gone through crises--grave and serious crises--before. Perhaps the style and words used in public were more blunt this time, but the practical significance of such crises was far more grave in the past -- arms embargoes, or discussions of aid and procurement requests not held or broken off, meetings with official Israeli representatives dodged, nonsupport of policy, etc. Of course, it is possible that the present crisis may also reach such degrees, but why paint the devil on the wall? Israel certainly need not accelerate the process.

Furthermore, we should not ignore the fact that the parties to the current crisis are not divided simply into goodguys and badguys, with Israel being the former and the United States and Egypt the latter. The facts are not plainly outlined in black and white. Today, Israel adheres to the agreement text as concluded on 11 November. But the Israeli Cabinet was the first to withhold approval of the text, requesting clarifications and amendments. True, this was a legitimate step under negotiating procedure, and the cabinet is not obliged automatically to confirm the decisions made by the negotiating team. But from the moment that one side fails to approve these decisions, the other side is no longer bound either and it, too, is entitled to raise new proposals. Even if the first side eventually returns to the text agreed on in the first place, the other side is no longer required to accept this automatically once it has already raised new proposals.

Thus the cabinet's statement, placing the entire blame for the nonsigning of the agreement on Egypt, contains a certain degree of pretended innocence. The process which brought about the nonsigning of the peace treaty by the date that was determined in the Camp David agreements began with the cabinet's questioning of the agreements reached in the negotiations in Washington and continued with the rejection of the U.S. compromise proposals in everything related to the setting of a date--a target date--for establishing the autonomy institutions. This does not really determine whether the cabinet was right in its reservations and in its opposition to the U.S. compromise proposals or to the Egyptian proposals which Cyrus Vance brought with him from Cairo, but it was possible to cast the whole blame on Egypt as though the cabinet, on 12 November, had accepted the draft formulated on 11 November and as though it were the Egyptian side that had been the first to raise demands for additions, clarifications and amendments.

The mistake made by the cabinet and by the members of the ministerial team who took part in the meeting with Vance on Friday lay in the overall and total rejection of the Egyptian proposals, leaving no opening for a continuation of negotiations. A counterproposal (or counterproposals) could have been put to Vance regarding the clauses in dispute so as to enable the shuttle trips between Jerusalem and Cairo to go on. Anyone studying the latest Egyptian proposals in depth will realize that the differences in most of the articles are not all that extreme or all that unbridgeable with some added effort, if indeed the cabinet's desire to reach a peace treaty with Egypt based on the Camp David agreements still exists.

Let us, for example, take Article IV, regarding the possibility of reassessing security arrangements in Sinai. Israel does not negate the logic of the Egyptian demand, only the restrictive date, i.e. in 5 years. According to U.S. sources, As-Sadat was ready to agree to a later date, and a clearer formulation could perhaps also have been reached. As for the article on diplomatic relations, this too is not as serious as Israel made it out to be. Egypt is not cancelling its consent to all elements of normalization due to go into effect as soon as the first stage of withdrawal has been carried out: Israeli vessels to be granted freedom to navigate the Suez Canal, trade relations, freedom of movement and establishing embassies. The only thing Egypt wants to postpone is the symbolic act of exchanging ambassadors until the autonomy is established, at least in the Gaza Strip, in order to avoid appearing in the eyes of the Arab world as having totally abandoned the Palestinian cause. Here too, informed observers estimate, a compromise formula could have been attained.

A harder nut to crack is the argument surrounding a target date for holding elections to the autonomy institutions. As in all these arguments, the United States recalls that Dayan and Weizman had agreed in Washington to a formula stating that the sides would conduct negotiations for establishing the autonomy with the genuine intention of holding elections to the autonomy institutions by the end of December 1979. That is the text As-Sadat agreed to in his talks with Vance in Cairo, although earlier on he had demanded a more binding formulation. True, Weizman and Dayan explained in Washington at the time that their consent was subject to approval by the cabinet, but the assumption was that the Israeli Cabinet would not refuse to approve such a decision, worded loosely as it is.

The most difficult problems are those related to Article VI. While Egypt has withdrawn its demand for amending the article referring to the treaty's "priority," it has requested the addition of two interpretative notes: one linking this article to the Camp David framework agreements and thereby creating a clear linkage between the peace treaty with Egypt and the autonomy agreement; and the second stating that the agreement will not tie Egypt's hands in the event of military aggression by Israel against another Arab country, unless that Arab country should attack Israel. A similar commitment was made with regard to the interim agreement in Sinai in 1975, and the United States therefore does not consider it as deviating from the spirit of the Camp David agreements. On the other hand, Israel's opposition to the first interpretation of Article VI is understandable, for this could devoid it of meaning. It is reasonable to assume that if an agreement had been reached with regard to a target date for holding elections to the autonomy institutions, Egypt would have waived its demand regarding this point; but the Israeli Cabinet left no opening for negotiations.

There is an increasingly strong impression that the Israeli Cabinet was hesitant about signing the peace treaty with Egypt for domestic reasons, because of second thoughts as to the profitability of the autonomy plan from the Israeli point of view. The question arises: Did not these second thoughts of this government come too late? Even though the peace treaty was not signed on the date laid down in the Camp David agreements, these agreements have not been canceled, nor has the political linkage that exists between them as achieved in those negotiations and signed on one and the same occasion. Even if the talks are stopped for a time and even if there is a period of crisis and struggle in Israel-U.S. relations, just as in the past, the starting-poing once the crisis is over will be the same point of departure that was being used before the crisis began--the Camp David agreements. This government has not given proof of being able to stand up to pressure any more successfully than did its predecessors. On the contrary, where the Golda Meir-Dayan cabinet did not succeed in 1970 or the Rabin-Peres-Allon cabinet in 1975, the Begin-Dayan government will certainly not succeed in 1978 or 1979. Quite the contrary. This cabinet abandoned prematurely any attempt at coordinating positions or reaching an understanding with the United States (Israel has "a few" more friendly assets in the United States than Taiwan does--Jewish citizens, a moral-religious commitment, understanding for a democratic regime and an accumulation of sympathy among public opinion--even though the one-sided abrogation of the defense treaty with Taiwan undoubtedly gives rise to concern). This cabinet also, through Dayan's lack of responsibility, waived all attempts at dialogue with the Soviets and at preserving an opposition to the Geneva conference. Therefore, those wishing to withdraw from the idea of the autonomy plan or territorial partition or a confederative framework (and those who believe that the conflict in our region will not be solved without agreement being achieved on the Palestinian question) must endeavor to have this government replaced by another which, while it cannot go back to the point of departure, certainly not where the Sinai is concerned, could conduct the negotiations on the future of the West Bank and Gaza differently. This time what is needed is not a national unity government, but something quite different.

AFP REPORTS SHAH SEEKING TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

TA190738Y Paris AFP in English 0714 GMT 19 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19 (AFP)--The shah has met Gholam Hoseyn Sadiqi, 73, a former deputy premier of the late nationalist Premier Mohammad Mossadeq, and suggested he form a new Iranian government, sources close to Mr Sadiqi said today.

Mr Sadiqi promised to give his reply within two weeks, according to the sources. He submitted questions and proposals to the shah concerning the constitution and its application, which the monarch approved, the sources said.

Mr Sadiqi, who spent his youth in France, is a trained sociologist. He was deputy premier and interior minister from July 1952 until the August 1953 coup in which Dr Mossadeq was overthrown, and was then jailed for three years.

Until 1963 he was a member of the moderate centre left National Front. Since then he has devoted himself to teaching.

FINANCE MINISTER EXPECTS $2 BILLION INCREASE IN OIL REVENUE

LD181210Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Following the decision on oil prices taken by the OPEC ministerial conference, our country's oil revenues in the coming year should increase by another $2 billion, providing production rises to the level of 6 months ago.

Announcing the decision, Hasan 'Ali Mehran, the minister of economic affairs and finance and head of the Iranian delegation to the Abu Dhabi conference, said in an interview granted to PARS NEWS AGENCY: Hopefully, as a result of this increase, our oil revenues will be increased by around 140 billion rials. Answering a question on Iran's position at the OPEC conference, particularly in view of the reduction in oil production, Mehran said: Obviously the quantity of production and exports of oil are extremely important in such talks, since OPEC constitutes a union of oil-exporting countries. He added: Nevertheless we fulfilled our effective role at the Abu Dhabi conference in conjunction with others, so that, on the one hand, we could maintain OPEC's unity and solidarity and, on the other, considering all aspects, we might secure a maximum increase in oil prices for our country and other OPEC members.

Commenting on our country's crisis which has given rise to anxiety among all Iranians and as regards the possibility of revising financial and economic programs, Mehran said: There is no doubt that should this situation continue, then it would be necessary to revise the country's financial and economic programs. However, we hope that, while understanding the wishes of the Iranian people, the situation will return to normal once again, because if the slowdown continues in various sectors, especially in the sensitive oil industry, there is no doubt that all programs will have to be revised.

KHUZESTAN GOVERNOR GENERAL REPORTS ON OIL PRODUCTION

LD191024Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Oil production in the country's southern oilfields, which is on the increase, reached 2.8 million barrels yesterday.

Lieutenant General Ja'farian, the governor general of Khuzestan, said in a telephone conversation with our correspondent Khodayar Ghiyasi this morning: the production of kerosene for internal consumption has reached the level of sufficiency and there is no cause for concern in this respect. Regarding yesterday's activity in the oil industry, he said: [begin recording]

[Ja'farian] Workers continued their go-slow in some areas yesterday but oil production went up anyway. The go-slow occurred at works not concerned with extraction. Yesterday 60 percent of the workers and 50 percent of the clerical staff were at work in Ahvaz. In Gachsaran, altogether 95 percent were at work. In Kharg, all the personnel were at work with the exception of 5 people who were absent to deal with administrative matters. Thirty-five percent of the clerical staff were at work in Abadan.

Oil production in Khuzestan reached 2.8 million barrels yesterday.

[Ghiyasi] In view of the fact that all the noble workers of the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] in Khuzestan will probably return to work, do you expect normal work to be resumed today and what will the level of production be?

[Ja'farian] It is most probable that a great many more will return to work in comparison to yesterday; production is also bound to go up. The figures at hand correspond with the correct NIOC figures; hence I cannot exaggerate or lie. If a radio makes an announcement about oil production or about the number of noble workers and clerical staff of the oil industry at work, it is 100 percent prejudicial and unacceptable. If production falls, I will immediately make an announcement and say that oil production has fallen, just as I announced before that all the compatriots were awaiting deliveries of kerosene, particularly in cold areas; and this difficulty has been completely overcome and a sufficient quantity of kerosene has been produced. [end recording]

TEXT OF 14 DECEMBER AZHARI INTERVIEW

LD162155Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 78 LD

["Exclusive" interview granted by Prime Minister Gen Gholam Reza Azhari to Tehran radio correspondent on 14 December--recorded]

[Text] [Question] When you presented your program to the houses of parliament, the provision of fuel and foodstuffs was one of the items on it. Unfortunately, there is still some shortage of fuel, though to a lesser extent. Could you pease comment on the reasons behind the shortage and the present oil situation?

[Answer] As you know, one of the country's sources of income is oil and its byproducts. Under normal circumstances, we were able to produce 5.7 million barrels daily, some of it for domestic consumption and the rest for export in order to secure the necessary revenue to meet the other needs of the country. Unfortunately, since the strikes began [words indistinct] on average over the past 2 months production fell to 2.9 million barrels a day, and during the past week it has fallen even further, to around 1.2 million barrels per day. Obviously, this is going to have grave consequences both for domestic consumption and, as we cannot export the oil and secure the money we need to meet our other requirements, for our revenues. This is the general oil situation. People ought to be told the truth and given the facts, so that we might, through their help, overcome the problems.

[Question] Are these shortages caused by the strikes, or are there other reasons as well?

[Answer] These strikes which have been taking place stemmed partly from demands for better welfare, which were met as much as possible. However, as you know, the enemies of Iran have, unfortunately, caused the great revolution of the Iranian people to deviate from its course. Another point is these strikes. After we met the welfare demands of oil workers, they were influenced by propaganda once more and continued with their strikes.

Obviously the genuine Iranian revolution is a revolution which has been accepted by the shahanshah. He officially said so. As for this government, it considers itself on the same level as the revolution. The government wants the principles of this revolution--as supported by the constitution--to be implemented. However, the enemies of Iran are causing the people to deviate. Not only does this apply to the oil industry, but to other spheres as well. We hope that with the guidance provided by intellectuals, their eminences, the nation's wise men, heads of families to their children, we might be able to implement the principles of the revolution, God willing.

[Question] General, could you please comment on the effects of the reduction in production of oil and its byproducts on the daily life of the people?

[Answer] If I really tried to tell you about the impact of the oil shortage on the people's daily life it would take hours. For example, fuel for homes. Winter is approaching, the weather is cold and people need fuel for heating; they are living in discomfort. There are sick people who ought to be in hospitals, but they will suffer discomfort in hospitals as well. Then there is the question of cooking; whether for rich or poor, it makes no difference: both are experiencing problems. Our factories also; when they run short of fuel they will have to suspend operations. Right now if we fail to supply fuel to our sugar factories, all the harvested beets on which our farmers pinned their hopes will rot.

Then there are our means of transportation; when I say means of transportation, you should not think I am talking only about private automobiles; it is by means of these vehicles that we are able to transport public necessities from one city to another. Factories need raw materials which must be transported from one area to another, where the factory is situated. They need food. In any case, the shortage affects all aspects of the country's life, even the trains. You must remember that all our trains have been converted to using diesel fuel; we no longer use coal or logs. Even the country's telecommunications will be affected.

If we fail to produce oil on the former scale--and this is the most important thing--we will not even be able to pay the salaries of the employees, even the oil industry's employees and workers. Therefore, oil revenues are important, for they constitute the basis of our economy. Of course, his imperial majesty the shahanshah had a program for the industrialization of this country, so that we would not have to depend on oil revenues. However, at the height of the process, the enemies of Iran attacked us on two fronts: one was our economy and the other was our youth attending higher schools and universities. These two were the two main targets of the enemies of Iran. Consequently, the present oil crisis will naturally reduce our revenues. Therefore, we will not be able to attend to a great many things. It is not enough just to have universities teaching theories; we need laboratories. These universities cost a great deal of money. How are we to finance them? Right now, our level of income is not such as to enable us to meet all these costs. Therefore, this oil shortage will have grave consequences for all aspects of our life.

[Question] Could you please explain the consequences of this reduction of revenues on our economic infrastructure?

[Answer] As I said before, this fall in our revenues will affect every single Iranian; everyone, irrespective of his job or profession. As regards the civil servants, I pointed out that without money we will not be able to pay their salaries or other benefits. When employees or workers working in factories do not receive fuel, obviously operations will be suspended and they will be unemployed. In any case, a great many people will be adversely affected. Generally, we expected to have approximately 500 to 520 billion rials by the end of the year to be used for such things as welfare, economic development, industrial projects as well as the implementation of industrial, agricultural and educational projects and at the same time subsidize bread, sugar, milk, fruits and so forth.

Another point I should mention is the country's development programs. If these projects are not continued, Iran and the Iranian people will sustain losses of billions of rials; we have to complete these projects. If we fail to complete these projects then they will be ruined by wind, rain and time. I do not think any Iranian would want to see billions of rials go to waste, in terms both of money as well as of years of work by the millions of Iranians who worked on these projects. Therefore, oil revenues are badly needed by Iran and every individual Iranian.

[Question] Having referred to these problems, could you please tell us what can be done. What is the government's program for the future?

[Answer] As for the measures adopted by the government, as you know, contrary to what Iran's enemies claim--they want to hold the government responsible for these strikes, they intend to bring the government to its knees, but by this action they will harm 36 million Iranians--these strikes will not only deal a blow to the government, but they will deal a blow to the 36 million-strong population of Iran. So the best approach is to make people aware and inform them of the consequences of these strikes for every single Iranian, even for the workers.

The fact is that these oil industry workers, like others, have to make a living; they have relatives, cousins, aunts and so forth, and all these as well will face difficulties. Therefore, I cannot accept that any Iranian could declare a war against the entire nation. Supposing the government is brought to its knees. But who is this government? Who am I? Today, I am the government; tomorrow I am a member of this nation. Therefore, we must make these employees, these noble workers of the oil industry, understand that what some of them are doing, under any provocation, thinking their action is aimed against the government, is not so; what they are doing results in making a confrontation against the entire nation.

My first policy is to alert the noble employees and workers of the oil industry to the danger. It is no exaggeration to say that whatever we have we really owe to them; these people are patriots and love the people. They cannot possibly commit treason; they cannot possibly want to commit such a crime. Therefore, my initial plan is to make them aware of the situation. Winter is approaching.

As you know, perhaps no other country uses as much kerosene as we do. I know for a fact that the majority of people of Tehran, with the exception of those with central heating, use kerosene. However, as a result of these strikes we are short of kerosene.

Some people might think I should not make such remarks, but I have said that I wish to let the people know the facts; I want them to understand. I have been forced to purchase oil from an oil-producing country, from other countries, because kerosene is needed by the low-income groups; they want to cook their food.

[Question] You mean our production has fallen to that level?

[Answer] Yes, our production is that low. We have very little kerosene. Fortunately, we have bought some from certain countries, even from some friendly countries who had already sold it elsewhere. But these friendly countries demonstrated their true humanity. When they realized that the masses of our low-income population were short of kerosene, they provided us with some; there is still some on the way. As prime minister, as an Iranian, I am ashamed when we have so much oil under our feet and I have to go and buy oil abroad for workers and people with low incomes.

A number of enemies of Iran have managed to influence a small number of our children and youth. These workers who have been influenced, if they are Muslims, they can refer to all the religious authorities and ask whether what they are doing is a crime. They can go either to the religious authorities in the country or to these authorities in other Muslim countries. If the workers are Christians, then they can ask their priests, and finally if they are Jewish they can ask their rabbis. I do not think any religion would allow so much torture and harm to be inflicted on people; it will not be allowed; especially in the true religion of Islam. We are all proud of being Muslims, for truly Islam is a religion which cannot be surpassed; that is why we say there will be no other religion after Islam, because we believe in this. They can go and ask our ulema. [passage indistinct]

Therefore, my second policy involved purchase of oil from abroad in order to prevent the low-income group from being faced with discomfort during the winter. I want humbly to beg--in the name of a population of 36 million--the oil industry workers not to be deceived by the enemies of the Iranian nation; I am not saying the Iranian Government, I say the Iranian nation. They want to bring us to our knees, because they have put their finger on the jugular vein of the Iranian nation. Without oil, I will not be able to pay salaries of employees. Then factories will close down, workers will become unemployed, they will run short of money to buy bread. Then bakeries will not have (?fuel) to bake bread. The same thing will happen to our hospitals.

Let us take a look at the textile industry. Supposing it becomes inoperative. Millions have been spent for this industry over the past 30 years. Once inoperative, the textile factories grow stagnant and rot and then we will not be able to use them anymore; then we have to buy new plants. Where are we to get the money? Consequently, in order to cover myself I have to buy clothes from abroad--though I could have obtained them within the country--at a higher price. On the one hand, I have no money but I have to buy the things I need from abroad; on the other hand, I am in need of these things. Then who is going to suffer? I tell you: 36 million people.

I do hope that the noble oil industry workers are aware of the crimes being committed by those deceived workers who have not returned to work. I do hope that these workers will return to work and continue their service to the nation.

[Question] Will you please tell us, General, what uses are made of this budget for foodstuff and essential commodities?

[Answer] As I wanted to be certain of the benefits to the people from the oil revenues [words indistinct], I instructed the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] and the plan organization to prepare me a list. According to this list, in order to reduce the prices of foodstuffs, in the current year 68 billion rials from the oil revenues are allocated to subsidize foodstuffs and other essential commodities. This is a very impressive figure--68 billion. Of this sum, about 11 billion rials covers the difference between the prices of wheat and flour. For every kilogram of wheat the government spends 6.5 rials to help the consumer. The same thing applies to sugar. For every kilogram of sugar, the government makes a subsidy of 15 rials; this is the amount which would have been paid by the consumer, but the government is paying it from the oil revenues. This totals a sum of about 12.5 billion rials.

Then comes meat; for every kilogram of meat, whether bought at home or from abroad, the government pays 69 rials, so that it will reach the consumer more cheaply. This, too, totals around 11 billion rials. Even milk; for every kilogram of milk we pay 13 rials, so that it is cheaper for the consumer. Vegetable oil; for every kilogram the government makes a subsidy of 34.5 rials. All these because the government wishes these things to be cheaper for the people. Obviously, if I were to continue, it would take a long time. However, you must remember that it does not end here. Even water and electricity; these, too, are subsidized to the tune of 5 billion rials each year. If we wanted to charge the people for all these, they would cost a great deal more.

Consequently, as you see, the cost of the strike is great. Supposing I could not sell this oil abroad tomorrow, then could I continue with these subsidies? Who is going to suffer? The number of people who can afford to pay for these things is very small; 35 million of the 36 million people are unable to afford it. These subsidies are necessary. Who do they think they are hurting? Cousins, aunts, fathers and other relatives of these same oil industry workers are in the same position. This action does not make sense, no matter how you look at it.

[Question] As you know, these strikes are not limited to oil industry workers, there are other strikes as well, though in certain other areas they have ended. Will you please explain what is to be done about the strikers?

[Answer] Fortunately, in a great many ministries and government organizations the strikes have ended. However, there are others who are still continuing their strike action. We raised this point in the cabinet and decided that the nation does not consider payment of salaries and benefits to strikers justified, for I do not believe a single individual in this country wants to pay a salary to someone who goes on strike and stops others from doing their jobs.

You have to remember that the government has no money of its own; whatever it has belongs to the people, to the nation. The government only operates on behalf of the nation. Therefore, a circular has been issued, addressed to all ministries and government organizations, to dismiss anyone refusing to work, in accordance with the regulations. Meanwhile, a bill is to be presented to the houses of the parliament; for indeed we cannot suspend work. Someone may think that, for example, if he did not go to work in the Customs Department, nothing would happen. But, consider the damage this would cause. Consequently, instructions have been issued for suspension in such cases. Later, when the approval of the houses of the parliament has been obtained, such people will be dismissed completely from government organizations.

As these strikes are not helping the people and as they are not aimed at providing a service to the people, then we have no right (? to pay them). The people have elected us; in any country, a number of people are elected by deputies and then called the government. Therefore, we are required to get these people back to work. This is not my own money. This money belongs to you; it belongs to every single Iranian. I am therefore not allowed to pay when people do not work. I consider this a sin, a crime; I am not going to pay.

[Question] As I understand it, we definitely need oil revenues, there is no doubt about that. Will you please comment on Iran's position on the OPEC meeting which is to be held next week?

[Answer] Unfortunately, considering my present situation I will obviously not be able to do what the nation expects of me. I will be quite frank, for I am a soldier and I express my feelings directly. In view of this situation, when an oil-producing country is purchasing oil from abroad and importing it, can I be expected to participate in OPEC, as I did 3 years ago? Therefore at a cabinet meeting it was agreed to abide by the majority decision [of the OPEC members], for right now I have no authority. I am buying the oil I need from abroad. So how can I hold any influence over others? You cannot imagine what these strikes have done to the nation and to the country. The magnitude of all this will emerge later.

The toil and labor of these honorable workers and staff of the oil industry have not been forgotten by us or by the masses of the people. Despite (?this), however, if--God forbid!--[words indistinct] since they have realized the magnitude of these strikes and the magnitude of the crime committed against every member of the Iranian nation. Six months later you see a poor, helpless nation, then you raise the subject of OPEC: What should I say in OPEC? What should I say?

[Question] You have no option but to follow....

[Answer] To follow the decision of the majority, I am helpless. I was not so, but now I am helpless.

[Question] My final question--digressing from oil--is connected with the demonstrations which those people backing the government have staged during the past day or two against its opponents in various cities. What is the government's definite view about these demonstrators, and what is the government's reaction to such meetings and people?

[Answer] Fortunately, the entire Iranian nation and the world realized that the government wished to observe sincerely the ceremonies of Tasu'a and 'Ashura [10-11 December] in mourning for the arch martyr, Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him. Regrettably, during both Tasu'a and 'Ashura--although certain people (?appreciated) this freedom of meeting which the martial law administration granted for this purpose--some people made political capital of these days and told foreign correspondents that these 2 days were days for determining fate.

A month previously, when I came here and foreign correspondents asked me about it, I said: In our faith 3 months are sacred. Of course, all months are dear to us, but these 3 months of ours are more sacred than other months. One is Ramadan and the other 2 months are Muharram and Safar. This is because our imams and religious leaders responded to the call of righteousness during these months and were duly martyred.

And we are in mourning; a person who is in mourning can no longer think of anything else. I told them that, contrary to what our enemies maintained, that Tasu'a and 'Ashura would be fate-determining days in the course of which hundreds and even thousands upon thousands would be killed. I was determined and promised that this would not be so. And you have noticed that, happily, no incidents took place in these 2 days.

However, our enemies, those who do not believe in the constitution, attempted to exploit this state of affairs, and those who are genuinely religious--that is, the majority of the Iranian people--were upset by this attempt and wished to show their reaction toward these people who used religion as a tool for carrying out their political actions and embarked on staging rallies in certain towns. Unfortunately, in some of these places incidents took place, which this government under no circumstances desired. For this reason all governors general and law enforcement officers were instructed that the government's sole aim was to establish calm. And to those who intended to take action as supporters of the government--while appreciating their sentiments--I said: You are doing the same thing that the opponents are doing. Therefore, you are delegated to establish calm. It makes no difference to you. Do not, under any pretext, allow the people's calm and peace to be destroyed, regardless of what happens to you.

[Question] Thank you very much for the time and trouble you have taken.

TEHRAN DENIES BBC VERSION OF TABRIZ DEMONSTRATION

LD191110Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 78 LD

[Text] There were demonstrations in Tabriz yesterday during which security forces and a group of demonstrators clashed, resulting in a number of injuries. According to reports, marches were held in several streets in Tabriz today. Meanwhile the city's doctors have protested the incident at the Shahreza Hospital in Mashhad and demanded the prosecution and punishment of those responsible. It should be added that on the recommendation of a number of Majlis deputies from Mashhad, several days ago a commission was sent to Mashhad by the prime minister; the commision prepared a report on the incident at the Shahreza Hospital in Mashhad and found that the doctors' protest was justified. Following that the governor general of Khorasan was assigned the task of apologizing to the eminent ayatollahs and honorable doctors of Mashhad, and of instituting legal proceedings against the young sergeant and others responsible for the incident.

According to our correspondent, demonstrations were held in a Tabriz street today and police officers used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. According to the latest reports, the situation in Tabriz at the moment is calm. Following the incident in Tabriz yesterday, London's BBC, in its Persian service last night, broadcast a report on the incident which was completely devoid of truth and which the Ministry of Information and Tourism has strongly denied. The country's recent (?events) have become a new excuse for the BBC, so that colonial mouthpiece may continue to protect colonial interests by its persistent provocations.

KHOMEYNI WOULD EMBARGO OIL TO COUNTRIES SUPPORTING SHAH

LD191021Y Paris LE MATIN in French 13 Dec 78 p 9 LD

[Correspondent "J-M C" report: "Khomeyni: All Relations With Shah Tainted With Illegality"]

[Text] Ayatollah Khomeyni yesterday drew the lessons from the 2 days of demonstrations which, on Sunday and Monday, brought millions of his supporters into the streets of Tehran and the other main cities of Iran. "These demonstrations," he declared to LE MATIN at his Neauphle-le-Chateau residence, "have the value of a referendum against the shah. The people have demanded his departure. The shah's regime can no longer claim any form of legality. All relations with him are therefore tainted with illegality."

In the eyes of the Shi'ite religious leader, the fact that the shah remains in power despite the size of the people's movement does not mean that he is in control of the situation. "The fact that the shah authorized the demonstrations," Khomeyni remarked, "is a sure sign that he fears a bloody revolution."

Finally, the ayatollah explained the significance of the remarks he made the previous day about the oil embargo he would advocate, when the time comes, against countries which support the regime still ruling in Tehran. "If any government openly supports the shah," he said, "we will supply it with no more oil. This warning does not extend to countries which are doing no more at present than maintaining normal diplomatic relations with Iran."

IRANIAN 'LEFT' SEES KHOMEYNI AS SHAH'S SOLE RIVAL

LD181617Y Paris LE FIGARO in French 15 Dec 78 p 4 LD

["Th. D." interview with anonymous representative of "Iranian extreme left": "Khomeyni Is the Only Man Able to Overthrow the King"]

[Text] The Iranian extreme left is trying to reorganize itself. For the time being it is nonexistent. The Tudeh Party--the communists--which has lived underground for the past 30 years and whose headquarters are in East Berlin, has been completely emasculated over the years by the SAVAK. The leftists who started in urban guerrilla action some time ago have also been massacred by the SAVAK. As a result, only a few of them have survived.

I was unexpectedly able to meet with them at a secret meeting place.

"For security reasons" my interlocutors introduced themselves only by their first names, and apologized for this. They were members of the Democratic Union of the Iranian People, a party which was created only recently and whose main leader, the writer Behazin, has in any case already been jailed.

To start with, they insisted on explaining that they have "nothing in common with the Tudeh Party." However, they added that "if we were lumped together with the Tudeh Party, as the official propaganda is already trying to make out, we would no longer stand any chance." They admit that for the time being they represent nothing in the eyes of public opinion, and that everybody without exception follows Ayatollah Khomeyni.

"No one has any choice at present," they say. "Khomeyni is the only man capable of overthrowing the shah. After 30 years of dictatorship, all other possibilities have been eliminated. Therefore, Khomeyni is indispensable at present."

[Question] But as a man of the left, are you, nonetheless, not frightened by what the ayatollah says?

[Answer] Many questions could certainly be put to him and he could be asked to explain a number of things. What does an "Islamic republic" mean? What is the meaning of the statement that "all minorities and all political organizations will be allowed provided they are not inconsistent with the principles of Islam?" All this is very vague, and so far we have been unable to establish contacts with him.

[Question] But do you not think that the ayatollah will treat you even more badly than the present regime?

[Answer] First of all, we will do our utmost to become an officially recognized party as soon as democratic competition is organized. And second--and this is one of our strong points--an Islamic republic will need cadres to administer the country. Now there are no such cadres among the religious fanatics. Therefore, they will have to look for such cadres among the middle classes and appoint our people. In any case, the middle class will never accept religious despotism.

[Question] But will it accept you?

[Answer] Nor will Moscow accept religious despotism. Our border with the USSR is 2,500 km long. This is of fundamental importance. Nor will Moscow be any more prepared to accept a military dictatorship in Iran, which certain Americans seem to envisage. You must never forget that, under the 1921 agreement, Moscow is entitled to intervene in Iran whenever Soviet interests are threatened.

[Question] What would you like to happen?

[Answer] We want to see real national independence insured. We are tired of being a colony of international capitalism. We want social equality. We talk neither about "socialism" nor about "communism" because these terms are wrongly interpreted in this country. We want a democratic people's regime. [answer ends]

It was getting late and we had to part. I had just met young Iranians who were neither socialists nor communists but who hoped for a people's democracy!

And, even more important, they seemed convinced that Moscow would intervene either if the military seized power or if Khomeyni did not try to liberate them. Perhaps they will be mentioned again one day....

AYATOLLAH MONTAZERI ARRIVES IN PARIS

LD181426Y Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] A religious leader has arrived in Paris for Iran. Ayatollah Montazeri said at Roissy Airport a short while ago that Muslims have no more confidence in the shah's regime and they demand his departure.

The religious leader has now left for Ayatollah Khometni's villa in Neauphle-le-Chateau, near Paris.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN URGES SOLDIERS TO ABANDON REGIME

LD190052Y National Voice of Iran [Clandestine] in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 5 Dec 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers--We are Addressing You"]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen, the bloodthirsty U.S. imperialist puppet regime and its government of black generals sheds the blood of the best sons of this land in Tehran and other Iranian towns and cities every day. The number of people killed and wounded in the past 3 days in Tehran and other parts of our despotism-stricken country, which is in the hands of the martial law and security forces of the regime, can be counted in thousands.

The regime has set the army and security forces against the people. The regime has assigned the armed forces, armed to the teeth with U.S. arms, under orders from U.S. President Carter and directed by U.S. military advisers, to massacre the unarmed people of our country--a people fed up to the teeth with the shah's bloody despotic regime. The regime's U.S. bosses say it does not matter if tens of thousands of Iranian men and women are rolled in blood and murdered. What is important is that the puppet palace and the guardian of plundering U.S. interests is saved from the danger of being overthrown.

The regime is endeavoring to bring about a split between the armed forces and the people, to set them against their fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and relatives. In the recent cowardly onslaughts of the regime's armed agents and in the recent clashes, many of the relatives of the soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers were killed and wounded. The armed forces should defend the country's territorial integrity against foreign aggression ana defend its national sovereignty and independence, not massacre innocent people and unarmed compatriots.

Service in national armed forces aimed at defending national independence and honor is a source of pride and honor, but service in armed forces aimed at fratricide and defending a despotic, bloodthirsty regime, and at defending the shaky position of the leaders of the regime, who have for years been treating the Iranian people's property, lives, honor and liberty as a toy, is not only no honor, but a crime. To carry out orders and commands by U.S. and native agents in the imperial armed forces, who have now undertaken the criminal task of massacring the people and of defending the palace's bloodthirsty despotic rule and the United States' plundering interests, is contrary to all religious and traditional principles. It is not without reason, therefore, that their eminences the ayatollahs, and particularly His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, in a message to the soldiers, noncommissioned officers and members of the armed forces has called upon them--recognizing their patriotic and religious responsibilities--not to become a tool in implementing the antihuman and criminal objectives of the shah's despotic regime and of its black generals, who are all subordinate to U.S. military advisers. The patriotic soldiers and noncommissioned officers of our homeland should abandon the defense of the bloodthirsty regime's position and side with the Iranian nation. They should not allow the regime and its U.S. bosses to implement the inhumane and anti-Iranian plots through Iranian soldiers and noncommissioned officers. The antinational and antifreedom plots of this U.S. puppet regime should be neutralized in every way possible.

Already in Tehran and other cities large groups of soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the armed forces, having expressed concern over the regime's killings and their solidarity with the Iranian nation--with their brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers--have shown their readiness to join the ranks of those struggling for liberty and against the U. S. puppet regime. With extensive explanatory activity within the ranks of soldiers and noncommissioned officers, the dangerous consequences of the plots by the shah's regime and his U. S. bosses should be made clear.

Patriotic Iranian soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers, the despotic regime and its U. S. bosses want to use you as merciless executioners and murderers against the Iranian nation, that is, they want to use you to commit the same crimes that America has perpetrated in Chile and which it is committing in Nicaragua. Iranian soldiers and officers should not and cannot bear the same of fratricide; they should not fire on the Iranian people and their brothers and sisters to protect this foul, traitorous, corrupt U. S. puppet regime. Honorable Iranian soldiers, non-commissioned officers and officers, by refusing to carry out this regime's orders and those of its black generals, put yourselves on the side of the nation.

EDUCATION MINISTER SAYS SCHOOLS TO REOPEN 23 DECEMBER

LD181154Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Following the announcement on the reopening of nursery, primary and guidance schools, which have resumed their work in Tehran, Shemiran, Rey and certain other parts of the country, Dr 'Ameli-Tehrani, the minister of education and training, in a telephone interview with our correspondent said that, beginning on Saturday 23 December, all high schools, technical schools, primary teachers' training schools as well as evening courses and other educational institutes attached to the Ministry of Education and Training will resume their work throughout the country. Meanwhile, by providing the necessary facilities, the ministry will make use of all available means to speed up educational courses.

The education and training minister expressed the hope that, beginning Saturday 23 December, all school children will exert all efforts to make up for having fallen behind. He added that the ministry looks at problems from an educational angle and that if certain individuals should try to interrupt educational programs, then it will be up to the security forces to prevent them from doing so.

BANGLADESH

SPOKESMAN HAILS NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-PRC RELATIONS

BK181725Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has described the Sino-U.S. accord on mutual recognition for establishment of normal diplomatic relations as an important development. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dacca today that the agreement has the potential of advancing the cause of global peace and development.

The spokesman hoped that the accord will significantly contribute to easing tension and promoting peace and harmony in the region.

Commentary Welcomes Normalization

BK171615Y Dacca Overseas Service in English 1240 GMT 17 Dec 78 BK

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A joint Sino-American communique released simultaneously from Peking and Washington on Saturday announced the mutual recognition of the two governments by each other with effect from the coming New Year's Day. The exchange of ambassadors and the establishment of embassies will take place the following 1st of March next year. The U.S.A. will end its mutual defense treaty with Taiwan on (?the day) Washington recognizes the Peking authorities as the sole legitimate Government of China. The American side will also withdraw all its existing troops from the island of Taiwan next May.

The announcement thus brings to an end a long period of about 30 years marked by a lack of any diplomatic relationship between the U.S.A. and China and also by the absence of any formal recognition of each other.

There has been a lot of change in the international scenario since the founding of the People's Republic of China. Such changes are, indeed, more pronounced during the recent times. The international community is now more active and persistent in its efforts for promotion of peace and stability the world over.

While it is yet an incontrovertible fact in today's international affairs that many troublespots having ominous prospects for world peace and stability still exist in different parts of the globe, it is also equally incontestable that the manifest change in the current international politics is for genuine relaxation of tension. The strategic arms limitation talks between the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. demonstrate a heightened sense of concern, particularly on the part of the concerned major powers, for insuring a more peaceful condition for international living. The Helsinki declaration is also a pointer to yet another international effort for promoting peace, stability and better understanding among different countries of the world, irrespective of social system and any other ideological doctrinaire considerations.

It is to be appreciated that about one-fourth of the world's population live in China. Phenomenal progress in different fields of national life have also taken place during the last 30 years of history of the People's Republic of China. A positive and constructive role of hers in international affairs for promoting global peace and stability has long been felt to be an imperative need.

In this context the policy of keeping China isolated and denying her a rightful international role has clearly been of no help. Such a policy has, in fact, proved to be counterproductive (?once and for all). The possibilities for the much-needed active involvement of China in related international processes aimed at insuring universal progress and security had thus been prevented for long because of the denial of her due place in the community of nations.

Against this backdrop the announcement about mutual recognition of each other and opening of formal diplomatic missions by the U.S.A. and China in Washington and Peking, respectively, is a momentous event promising to end an era of isolation and to begin a new course of international cooperation between the two countries and the world at large. It is in fact a happy outcome of the process of normalization that began after a 23-year break of relations between the two big countries with former President Nixon's historic visit to Peking in 1972. The announcement, which has been described by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng of China as a historic event, will indeed have a positive effect on peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world at large. President Carter has also noted that the agreement between his country and the People's Republic of China to exchange mutual recognition to each other and to exchange ambassadors will offer the two governments opportunities to begin working together to enhance the cause of world peace.

As a country firmly wedded to the cause of global peace and stability and resolutely committed to the goal of relaxation of international tension, we in Bangladesh welcome the new development in the bilateral relations between the U.S.A. and China as a positive step toward normalization that will undoubtedly help strengthen the interests of both regional and world peace. This is indeed a significant development in world politics and will surely have a far-reaching impact on the international scene. The initial international reaction in different parts of the world to this historic event has, for natural reasons, been one of welcome and satisfaction. The U.S.-China diplomatic normalization has now indeed come as a positive move in the pursuit of peace and stability--both regionally and the world over.

ZIA ANNOUNCES MAJOR CHANGES IN CONSTITUTION

BK1603llY Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator has issued a proclamation repealing all the undemocratic provisions of the constitution incorporated in the fourth amendment. The proclamation issued tonight will be known as the Second Proclamation Fifteenth Amendment Order 1978.

The important provisions of the proclamation include the appointment of the prime minister, who must be a member of the parliament enjoying the support of the majority members of the house. In case nonmembers of the parliament are included in the cabinet, their number in no case shall exceed one-fifth of the cabinet strength.

The president will have no veto power.

Government servants will not be eligible to seek election to the parliament.

The proclamation says constitutional amendments by parliament can be done by a two-third majority, but the preamble of the constitution, the four principles and the manner of electing the president cannot be amended by the parliament unless the bill is passed by it and ratified by the people through a referendum.

Subordinate judiciary, which was directly under the president's control, will now be controlled by the president in consultation with the Supreme Court.

PRESIDENT REMITS SENTENCES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

BK160142Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] On eve of the Victory Day [1971 liberation war anniversary], the president has granted remission of sentences of 46 freedom fighters in recognition of their contribution to the war of liberation. Of these, sentences of 31 freedom fighters have been totally remitted and they were released forthwith. The sentences of 15 freedom fighters have been remitted by 5 years in addition to usual remission. Prosecution has also been withdrawn against 33 other freedom fighters.

Besides, the government has ordered immediately the release of 157 detainees and 386 under-trial prisoners on [word indistinct]. Thus the total number of prisoners being released on the eve of victory comes to 484.

ZIA REITERATES ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD 27 JAN

BK181656Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpt] President Zia has declared in unequivocal terms that the date for the election to parliament will not be shifted under any circumstances. It will be held on the 27th of next month as scheduled. The president was speaking as chief guest [words indistinct] in Dacca this morning. He said despite obstacles put by interested forces, the government was fully determined to complete the democratic process with a view to establishing people's democracy.

President Zia called for the mobilization of public opinion for holding a free, fair and impartial election. He said the country's sovereignty and independence can be secured only through elections and not through violence.

INDIA

STATEMENT WELCOMES U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION

BK161513Y Delhi ISI in English 1457 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Text of 16 December statement issued by official spokesman of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and the PRC]

[Text] We have come to know that the People's Republic of China and the United States of America have agreed to recognise each other and to establish diplomatic relations as of 1 January 1979 and that ambassadors between the two countries would be exchanged on 1 March 1979. This represents the finalisation of the process of normalisation of bilateral relations between the United States and China started in 1972.

India has always recognised the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole Government of China. The establishment of full diplomatic relations between the United States and China will, we hope, lead to easing of international tensions, and more particularly, promote peace and stability, which is the cherished wish of all states in Asia.

Press Comment

BK1816llY Delhi ISI in English 1442 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In an editorial comment under the heading "Vast and Portentous" the HINDUSTAN TIMES wrote: President Jimmy Carter's announcement that the United States would have full-fledged diplomatic relations with China from January 1, 1979 may not be very startling news for those who have been watching the two powers inching towards each other ever since Nixon visited Peking in 1972, but its implications are vast and portentous for the world.

One immediate effect will be a hardening of attitudes in the Soviet Union and among its allies in East Europe and added hostility between Vietnam and China. The steps outlined by President Carter imply that China sees no role for itself in Africa and the Middle East except to oppose Russian moves. In effect, China will now become a nation and cease to be an ideology, and Chinese-oriented communist parties all over the world will have to fend for themselves as best they can.

What is frightening is that China accepts as an axiom that war between the United States and the Soviet Union is inevitable. If such calamity does in fact occur it is now clear where China will stand.

The INDIAN EXPRESS in its editorial "A Historic Event" wrote:

The decision to establish full Sino-U.S. relations was not entirely unexpected, but the two sides seem to have rushed through the final stages of the process of making it. The worries over the establishment of a pro-Soviet regime in Afghanistan and the threat of the loss of America's influence in Iran must have convinced Washington and Peking that it was high time they got closer. Washington no longer sees communist China as a danger to peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. After its recently concluded alliance with Japan, China appears to U.S. policymakers a dependable partner in the attempt to contain Soviet influence in Asia. The South Koreans may now feel a little less confident about their future, but Teng Hsiao-ping will probably assure President Carter in Washington next month that the North Koreans will not attempt reunification of Korea by force. The normalisation of relations between China and the United States is the formal inauguration of a new balance of power in Asia.

An editorial of the PATRIOT "Historic Formality" said:

For President Jimmy Carter the decision to establish full diplomatic relations between China and the United States was recognition of "simple reality" while Foreign Minister Huang Hua described it as a "historic event".

Normalisation of relations between the two governments will undoubtedly facilitate the execution of large deals between the armament manufactures of the United States and the "modernization" lobby in Peking which is pressing ahead a massive programme of China's militarisation.

Normalisation of the relationship between the countries should be a step toward peace and amity, but the world is so constructed today that closer cooperation between Peking and Washington causes apprehension in peace-loving circles.

The STATESMAN in an editorial "Tasks With Atoms" wrote:

The controversy over the fuel supply for the Tarapore nuclear power station is unlikely to end soon. For India, the latest irritant is the U.S. nuclear regulatory commission's decision to hold public hearings on an application for 16.8 tonnes of enriched uranium.

The controversy has blown the importance of the Tarapore fuel issue out of all proportion with unfortunate consequences for both political relations and technical priorities.

There has been much speculation in recent months on what would happen if American fuel supplies were stopped. It would be ideal if a method could be devised to run the Tarapore reactors on indigenously produced fuel.

LOK SABHA SENTENCES MRS GANDHI TO JAIL

BK191251Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The Lok Sabha today sentenced the former prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, to jail, till the prorogation of the house and expelled her from membership in the Lok Sabha. She was found guilty of serious breach of privilege and contempt of the house.

The amendment to the prime minister's motion in this regard was adopted by the house with 279 members voting in favor and 138 against.

The voting took place after the prime minister emphatically denied any vindictiveness in recommending the punishment. He said that Mrs Gandhi showed no remorse which would call for justice being tempered with mercy. On the contrary, she levelled baseless accusations into which he did not wish to go at this stage.

Mrs Gandhi's former aide, Mr Dhawan, and the former director of the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], Mr Sen, have also been committed to jail till the prorogation of the house.

Immediately after this decision, the leader of the opposition, Mr Stephen, said the procedure for executing the sentence is not clear. He pointed out that Mrs Gandhi was being left in the custody of the speaker and not any outside authority. The house was then adjourned with Congress-I members, including Mrs Gandhi, staying on in the chamber raising slogans.

GANDHI SUPPORTERS ARRESTED IN UTTAR PRADESH

BK191256Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In Lucknow, the leader of the opposition in the Uttar Pradesh assembly, Mr Narayan Dutt Tiwari, and some Congress-I workers were arrested outside the collectorate for violating prohibitory orders.

Mr Tiwari was leading a demonstration of Congress-I workers to protest against the privilege motion in the Lok Sabha to punish Mrs Gandhi.

DESAI DENIES SECRET NUCLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH U.S.

BK151633Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has refuted the charge that any secret understanding has been reached with the United States to allow American scientists to inspect the Indian nuclear establishments. Mr Morarji Desai declared in the Rajya Sabha today that there is no question of saying goodby to the objective of achieving self-reliance in nuclear technology. He said India would achieve its goals in the scientific field without depending on any other country. Mr Desai, who was replying to a half-hour discussion raised by Mr Bipin Pal Das, Congress, said that alternative arrangements will be made to obtain nuclear fuel for the Tarapore atomic plant if Washington fails to fulfill its obligations.

About the appointment of a joint committee of scientists going into the question of nuclear safeguards, he said there is no commitment on India's part to accept its findings. If there is to be inspection, it would be for all countries.

Referring to the transfer of Dr Ramanna from the Bhabha Atomic Research Center, Bombay, as scientific advisor to the Defense Ministry, Mr Desai said this was done with his consent. He said nothing can be further from the truth than to say that our scientists are being denigrated.

MEDICAL HELP OFFERED TO EXIIED PAKISTAN LEADER

BK151246Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] India has conveyed to Badshah Khan [Pakistan Northwest Frontier Province leader living in exile in Afghanistan] that he is welcome to come to India for medical treatment. The government is also prepared to send Indian doctors to Kabul to treat him. Afghanistan has been informed of the offer.

The external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, told the Lok Sabha today that letters have been received expressing concern over the health of the khan.

NEPAL

SPOKESMAN WELCOMES U.S.-PRC DIPLOMATIC NORMALIZATION

BK161542Y Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Nepal has welcomed the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. Commenting on the normalization of relations between the two countries, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said that the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States is an important event which will have a positive impact on international relations.

It may be noted that Nepal has always maintained that the People's Republic of China is the sole and legitimate representative of the Chinese people.

PAKISTAN

HAQ SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO HUA KUO-FENG, CARTER

BK171630Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 78 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has sent messages of congratulations to Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and President Carter on their decision to establish diplomatic relations between the PRC and the United States.

In his message to Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, the president said that the decision is a matter of satisfaction for the government and people of Pakistan. Greeting the Chinese Government and people on this historic development, he said that this will not only serve the interests of the people of the PRC and the United States but also contribute to peace in Asia and the whole world.

In a similar greetings message to President Carter, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that this historic event will significantly contribute to stability in Asia and the cause of world peace. He said that we take great satisfaction in the successful outcome of the progress of reconciliation between the two great nations with whom we have traditionally maintained relations of close friendship and cooperation.

The president has also sent a message of congratulations to senior Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping on this occasion

HAQ ON SHARIAT BENCHES, U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION

BK190427Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpts] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that the presidential order on Shariat benches will soon be amended to provide a time limit for bringing the personal law, fiscal matters and banking under the jurisdiction of the Shariat benches. The president was talking to newsmen at Multan airport before his departure for Rawalpindi.

Replying to a question about the impact of recent developments in Sino-American relations on this part of the world, the president said it was still too early to comment. However, he added that what he could say at the moment was that in terms of Sino-Pakistani relations, the understanding between the United States and China would definitely help stabilize the situation in this area and would also improve Pakistan's international relations.

BHUTTO APPEALS DEATH SENTENCE BEFORE SUPREME COURT

BK181026Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 18 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Rawalpindi, Dec 18 (AFP)--Looking pale, strained and on the verge of tears, former Pakistani Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto appeared before Supreme Court Judges here today and made an eloquent appeal against the death sentence. It was Mr Bhutto's first appearance in public for more than 10 months. He appeared thin and physically weak although clear-minded.

Mr Bhutto, a former president of Pakistan, declared: "This case has been fabricated. It is not so much for me to defend myself but to prove beyond any reasonable doubt that I am the murderer".

Mr Bhutto was clearly tired after being in the dock for a little more than an hour, and the judges granted him an early break in the proceedings with the right to return tomorrow to explain in detail his position on all aspects of his defence. There was silence as Mr Bhutto, 50, told the seven judges in a voice breaking with emotion: "I have been shabbily treated in my death cell".

Tight security was enforced as Mr Bhutto and the four people sentenced with him were driven from Rawalpindi's central prison to the Supreme Court. More than an hour beforehand crowds gathered along the 3-kilometre (1 mile) long route, but there were no demonstrations.

Mr Bhutto began his defence with a reference to Pakistan, and recalled that he was the author of the constitution adopted unanimously in 1973. He then attacked the failure to hold elections, the rise of regionalism, the multiplication of political parties, and the dangers threatening the Pakistani federation as being the consequences of his overthrow and of the imposition of martial law. The former premier said he had been accused of every kind of action although these charges were often contradictory.

In a long attack on his prison conditions, Mr Bhutto said his cell measured "7 feet by 10". He added, "one suffocates. I can't get proper sleep. For the last 90 days I have not seen daylight as I am kept in solitary confinement."

Mr Bhutto compared himself to the French Jewish army officer Captain Dreyfus wrongly sentenced to death for spying at the end of the last century, and he added that wartime Nazi leader Hermann Goering had received better treatment at the postwar Nuremberg war crimes trial.

COMMERCE MINISTER RETURNS FROM TALKS IN KABUL

BK161019Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have decided in principle to set up a joint ministerial commission to review periodically the progress in transit trade and identify areas of further cooperation in trade, transport and economic relations. This has been stated in a joint press release issued simultaneously in Islamabad and Kabul at the end of the visit of the federal commerce minister, Mian Zahid Sarfraz, to Afghanistan.

The press release said during his stay in Kabul the commerce minister was received by President Nur Mohammad Taraki and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Hafizollah Amin. Comprehensive discussions on matters of transit and trade between the two countries were held.

The Afghan delegation proposed a new transit agreement, the draft of which was received by the Pakistan delegation for further study and consideration.

During the examination of problems pertaining to transit and transport, a number of issues were identified and as an interim measure at least some of them, as reflected in the minute of understanding between the two countries, was devised. [as heard]

The press release said that the two sides agreed on the need for providing necessary facilities for smooth flow of transit and transport to Afghanistan's goods through Pakistan and promote trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Mr Zahid Sarfraz invited the commerce minister of Afghanistan to visit Pakistan and the invitation was accepted.

On his return to Rawalpindi this afternoon the federal commerce minister told newsmen that at his meeting with President Nur Mohammad Taraki he discussed matters of mutual interest and ways and means to improve trade and commercial relations between the two countries.

About his meeting with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mr Hafizollah Amin, he said they had very free and frank discussions about the difficulties which the Afghan Government feels they were facing in transit trade through Pakistan.

Several proposals and practical steps for removing the present difficulties and making the flow of goods more smooth were discussed. They had a complete understanding of each other's difficulties and stressed their resolve to improve trade and commerce between the two countries.

The commerce minister said he also had talks in Kabul with his Afghan counterpart, Mr Abdolqoddus Ghorbandi. As a result of these free and informal discussions, the minutes of understanding were signed today. The minister hoped his visit had opened new doors of cooperation between the two countries. Even in joint ventures they had identified the fields in which they could have more cooperation.

Mian Zahid Sarfraz also told newsmen that President Taraki assured him that the treaty of cooperation and friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union signed recently was not directed against any country, and he expressed his desire to have similar relations of friendship and cooperation with all neighboring countries, including Pakistan.

SRI LANKA

HAMEED WELCOMES U.S.-PRC NORMALIZATION

OW161815Y Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 16 Dec 78 OW

[Excerpts] Colombo, 16 Dec (AFP)--Sri Lanka today said the announcement of the normalization of relationships between the United States and China is a welcome development for the whole world.

Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Hameed said: We congratulate the leadership of the two countries for having reached consensus in this question.

Noting that the non-aligned countries have in their manifesto disarmament as one of their priorities, Mr Hameed said a graduation of relations between these two major countries should reduce tension and promote international security and peace.

"However, one cannot feel happy until this process gathers momentum in Asia and Africa", he said. He expressed the hope that in Asia, where two thirds of the world's population live there would be greater understanding and normalisation of relations among the various countries if Asia's energies are to be marshalled towards making life more meaningful to the teeming billions who are languishing in hunger and want.

BRIEFS

AFGHAN SUGAR CONTRACT WITH USSR--A contract for the Soviet Union to supply 30,000 tons of sugar to Afghanistan was signed in Kabul yesterday by the Afghan Department of Government Monopolies and the Soviet Vostokintorg Company. Under the terms of the contract, delivery of sugar from the Soviet Union will begin next January and will continue up to next (?May). [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 5 Dec 78 LDT]

SOVIET CEMENT TO AFGHANISTAN--The agreement to import (25,000) tons of cement from the Soviet Union was signed between the Afghan Ministry of Commerce and the Vostokintorg of the Soviet Union in Kabul today. Under the terms of this agreement, the delivery of cement to Afghanistan will begin after 3 months and will be completed within 6 months. This quantity of cementy is in addition to the 120,000 tons which were purchased earlier. [Kabul in English to South Asia 1400 GMT 5 Dec 78 LDT]